

MINUTES OF THE LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT COMMUNITY NOISE FORUM ON TUESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2022 AT 11:00HRS

PRESENT

Jeremy Pilgrim (Chair) (JP)
 Glyn Jones (LSA) (GJ)
 Jo Marchetti (LSA) (JM)
 Nicola Park (LSA) (NP)
 Michael Dyer (Burgess Estate Residents Association) (MD)
 Roy Evans (Leigh Residents Association) (RE)
 Jane Vernon-Smith (Chalkwell Ward Residents Association) (JB)
 Joanna Spencer (SS0) (JS)
 Anna Waite (SS3) (AW)
 Kevin Salt (SS4) (KS)
 Mandy Johnson (SS5) (MJ)
 Richard Allen (SS9) (RA)
 Adrian Smith (SBC) (AS)
 Mike Steptoe (ECC) (MS)
 Cllr Julie Gooding (RDC) (JG)
 Ian Green (DfT) (IG)
 Robin Monaghan (Anderson Acoustics) (RM)
 Peter Rafano (Envirosuite) (PR)
 Nicola Trett (LSA – Taking Minutes)

APOLOGIES

Ian Copland (SS6)
 John Bailey (SS2)
 Dan Rawlings (Envirosuite)

ACTIONS

1.	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR</p> <p>The Chair introduced himself to the meeting and asked everyone to do the same. Jane Vernon-Smith attended as a substitute for Sally Holland (Leigh Residents Assoc). Hilary Scarnell (SS9) gave notice on 18/01/22 that she would like to resign from the forum, Richard Allen was selected as the SS9 replacement from the list of original applications.</p>	
2.	<p>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved and agreed. JM advised that are currently 3 vacancies available SS1, SS7 and SS8.</p>	
3.	<p>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</p> <p>The Chair invited a discussion on how members would like to communicate noise matters to and from residents in their specific postcode areas. The Chair asked if members had an issue with sharing a generic email address with members of the public, setting up a dedicated noise email that would be advertised on the LSA website. It was agreed that generic email addresses would be set up by SS postcode members (public emails for councillors could also be advertised). The format would be <i>name/postcode/noiseforum@gmail(or other).com</i>.</p> <p>JM to confirm set up and send out GDPR authorisation form to be completed.</p>	JM

4.

AIRPORT UPDATE BY GLYN JONES

Passenger, cargo, private jet movements are all down on previous years and remain low. easyJet will return on 2nd May offering two away-based routes to Spain, operating 10 x flights a week. Wizz Air are expected to start services from middle of June. The airport continues to talk to other airlines but expect to finish the year on approx. 95K passengers - 97% down on 2019 figures. It has been a very difficult period. Cargo is currently operating just one rotation a day (one take-off at night and one daytime arrival). There is no expected change for the number of cargo operations in the immediate future. General aviation is up on last year and is essential to keep ATC teams 'current' in terms of CAA requirements. The probability of reaching 2019 figures this year are nil and it will take 2-3 years to see recovery back to pre-covid levels.

IATA also believe that it will not be until 2024/25 when airports are back to pre-covid flying although some airlines/airports are ahead of that schedule.

The impact of the pandemic has been significant with employees' numbers reduced by 50%. A large proportion of staff leaving aviation to find employment in more secure job sectors. The good news is that the airport is now recruiting. A virtual careers event recently attracted 60 local people, interested in various roles being advertised at the airport. These roles currently include positions in security, ATC, Fire, Tech Services.

There have been some significant changes to the airport management team. Finance Director, Rick Jackson has decided to spend more time with his family, leaving the business after nearly 27 years of service. Rick's replacement has been recruited and will join the team in March. The airport will also be welcoming Nigel Mayes as new Business Development Director. Nigel has over 25 years industry experience and will replace Luke Hayhoe. Willie McGillivray (COO) has left aviation for a new career path in construction. Marc Taylor, who has worked at the airport for almost 24 years, will be promoted to Operations Director, and Caroline Fitzgerald will step into the role of Commercial and Customer Service Director.

The airport continues to work with its charity partner SECE Mind, raising over £15k and engaging in a number of mental health awareness activities. Work on various environment targets is progressing and data will be sent to the carbon accreditation scheme shortly.

Despite this challenging period, the airport has a great future and is a great business; Carlyle Group have been very supportive, both financially and in sharing their aviation and environmental expertise. They are one of the biggest employers in the USA.

MS asked if aircraft maintenance had been badly hit by the pandemic. GJ advised that aircraft maintenance had reduced long before the pandemic primarily due to cost. It was much cheaper to fly aircraft to the other side of the world for maintenance than stay in the UK.

MS asked if the main recruitment drive was aimed at the SS postcodes. GJ advised that the airport was working with the local authorities, schools, colleges, and the local job centres to sources local employment. 85% of employees are from the SS postcodes.

MS asked what the plans are for the new hotel. GJ advised that there were no current plans to develop the new hotel, there is no immediate need due to the occupancy rates of the existing Holiday Inn. The planning permission for the new hotel lasts for three years.

RA stated that the main source of noise complaints was about the night-time cargo flights. GJ acknowledged this and JM stated that due to current low levels of aircraft activity, the airport expects to see a rise in complaints when easyJet return as residents have got used to a very quiet period. This is recognised across all airports as flights begin to come back.

The Chair thanked Glyn Jones for attending the meeting and providing a detailed verbal update on the Airport activities.

5.

PRESENTATION BY NICOLE PARK

As requested at the previous meeting, Nicole Park (HoATS) provided a thorough presentation explaining training flights and how the circuit pattern works.



General Aviation
Training Flights.ppt

MJ asked why WebTrak measures height above sea level. PR advised that this is standard practice for all airports.

JS asked why the training flights can't turn immediately after departure. NP advised that this is not possible as they must climb and follow the four specific stages of the circuit. It would be impossible to turn any earlier – it would be dangerous.

MJ asked why they cannot fly higher. NP advised that this is because we must operate commercial flights as well. Southend ATC must keep training aircraft separated from overhead air traffic operating to/from other airports.

MJ also asked why we cannot have fewer aircraft in a circuit at a time. NP advised that it is safe to operate multiple aircraft in the same direction on a circuit.

KS asked what was the highest a circuit could be flown. NP advised that increasing the circuit height would also increase the circuit distance and not be effective for maintaining a visual on the aircraft during training.

GJ identified that the simple question was 'why can't aircraft fly higher over Hockley'?

NP to provide answer for the next meeting

NP

AW asked when the foulness area was active? NP advised it was mainly Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm.

Further information on the MOD site, including operating times, can be found [here](#).


6.

UPDATE PRESENTATION BY ANDERSON CONSULTING

As a follow up to the report presentation at the previous meeting, RM provided the results of their independent study on how Southend Airport performs against the ICAO balanced approach to noise management.



LSA CNF
ICAO_Presentation /

7.	<p>RM was asked if night movements from other airports could be obtained to establish a pattern? RM advised that it would be very difficult to obtain these from other airports.</p> <p>MS asked if the 120-night quota includes coast guard, police etc. JM advised that they are not included.</p> <p>The Chair paid thanks to Nicola Park for her review of ATC operations and to Robin Monaghan of Anderson Acoustics for their updated presentation from previous meeting.</p> <p>NOISE COMPLAINT DATA</p> <p>JM talked through the noise complaint data (Mar 21 – Dec 21) which was shared with the members prior to the meeting. JM also updated the members on Jan 22 data.</p> <p> Noise forum complaints report 2021</p> <p>JM explained that WebTrak provides then opportunity for residents to make complaints about all flights regardless of their location so the data for complaints about flights over Rochford does not necessarily mean that it is residents in Rochford complaining. In fact, 64% of the top 20 complaints live in the SS9 postcode area.</p> <p>KS asked if the spreadsheet can it show total night flights over Rochford as it does with Leigh on Sea. JM to add this to the spreadsheet.</p> <p>AW asked when the WebTrak auto response is sent can it have further explanation to state that the complaints are recorded and how they are used. JM to action</p> <p>KS asked if he could speak to Envirosuite as he sometimes finds it difficult to use. PR advised that he would be happy to offer some help after the meeting. JM to pass KS contact details to PR.</p>	
8.	<p>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS</p> <p>JS asked if the air quality levels for more regional airports are reduced rather than being the same as larger airports. IG advised that they are set by the government for all sources of nitrate oxide and carbon. If there are breaches of these measures, then it would be the local council that would then get involved.</p> <p>MS asked what noise abatement measures are in place to allow night flights into the airport. JM advised that the airport restricts night movements in accordance with S106 controls.</p>	JM
9.	<p>KS asked to for a fact sheet that explains noise decibels and measurements in layman’s terms – JM to action</p> <p>AOB None raised.</p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone for attending, in particular Peter Rafano from Envirosuite and Ian Green from the Department of Transport.</p>	JM

10.

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 10th May 2022

Thursday 1st September 2022

Wednesday 9th November 2022

The meeting closed at 13.30

Summary of actions

Actions	Action	Action Owner	Action Assigned	To be actioned by
1	JM to confirm the format for generic emails and send out GDPR authorisation form to be completed.	JM	15/02/2022	10/05/2022
2	GJ asked for more information on why aircraft cannot fly higher over Hockley	NP	15/02/2022	10/05/2022
3	Add total night flights over Rochford to the spreadsheet data	JM	15/02/2022	10/05/2022
4	Review auto response on WebTrak to explain how data is logged and recorded	JM	15/02/2022	10/05/2022
5	PR to provide advice to KS on how to use WebTrak	PR	15/02/2022	10/05/2022
6	Produce a fact sheet or presentation on decibels/how noise is measured	JM	15/02/2022	10/05/2022