



FARNBOROUGH AERODROME CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Notes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th November 2006 in the BAE SYSTEMS Park Centre.

Present :

Chairman

Mr R. M. MacKay

User representatives :

Mr R. Walker	TAG Farnborough Airport Ltd
Ms K. Wood	TAG Farnborough Airport Ltd
Sir Donald Spiers	TAG Farnborough Airport Ltd
Mr M. Khalek	Gama Aviation
Mr W. Epton	WJE Associates
Mr J. Batty	British Business & General Aviation Association
Ms M. Stickles	Flight Safety International
Mr J. Cairns	Farnborough (International) Ltd

Local Authority Representatives :

Cllr James Radley	Hart District Council
Cllr P. Hutcheson	Hampshire County Council
Cllr C. Pitt	Surrey County Council
Cllr P. Taylor	Rushmoor Borough Council
Cllr R. Dibbs	Rushmoor Borough Council
Cllr J. Bennison	Hart District Council

Local Interests :

Mrs J. Radley	Fleet and Church Crookham Civic Society
Mr G. Marks	Farnborough Airport Residents Association
Cllr V. Scrivens	Farnham Town Council
Mrs M. Shepherd	Farnborough College of Technology
Mrs D. Knowles	Mytchett Frimley Green and Deepcut Society
Cllr D. Argent	Crandall Parish Council

Secretary :

Mr P. Riley

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 There were apologies from Cllr Drew, Mr C. Way, Cllr Isherwood and Cllr Worrall.
- 1.2 The Secretary reported that Mr Rayment and Mr Way had resigned from the Committee and that Ms K. Wood (TAG Farnborough Airport), Ms Stickles (Flight Safety International) and Mr J. Cairns (Farnborough International) had been appointed User Representatives. He also mentioned that Mr Brandon O'Reilly had been appointed Chief Executive of TAG (Farnborough Airport) with effect from 1st January 2007.

2. NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH JULY 2006

2.1 Accuracy

The Secretary noted that Cllr Drew should have been recorded as attending the meeting. He also asked for the following paragraph to be inserted in the minutes :

‘ Website

The Chairman thanked Mr Norman Lambert for keeping the FACC website in good order. Following his resignation from the Committee, it had been agreed that Mr Lambert would continue to operate the website. Mr Walker echoed the Chairman's remarks and confirmed that TAG had agreed to provide funding for the website under Mr Lambert's management. It was agreed that the website address would, in future, be quoted on FACC letterheads and on agendas for meetings.’

2.2 Matters arising

Item 2.2 - The Secretary had written to Surrey Heath BC confirming the Committee's decision.

Item 3.2 – The Secretary confirmed that he had received satisfactory replies from FARA and the Mytchett, Frimley Green and Deepcut Society regarding their nominations to the Committee.

Item 4.2 – Mr Walker said that he hoped the TAG Information Report now contained the additional information requested by the Committee. Cllr Radley said that some incidents notified to him were not recorded in the TAG Report. Mr Walker said that he was not aware of any incidents that were not reported. Ms Wood said that all the complaints received on the dedicated complaints line are recorded in the Report. Cllr Radley referred to two complaints (one on 30th March 06 concerning aircraft registration VP – BHB and the other on 6th April

06 concerning aircraft OO – KRC) which were not mentioned in the Report. Mr Walker said that these complaints would be investigated and he would report back to the Committee.

Action : Mr R.Walker

The Chairman asked all members of the Committee to notify TAG, in future, of all such unreported incidents. Cllr Radley said that he had brought these two incidents to the attention of the Committee because his constituent had raised the matter with TAG but had not received a satisfactory response.

Cllr Taylor asked whether the details of the complaints line could be publicised more widely. He felt that efforts should be made to reduce the need to report these issues to the Committee.

Item 6.3 – Mr Marks asked whether the statement read out by Mr Walker could be attached to the minutes. He also asked whether the CAA audit could be made available to the Committee. Mr Walker agreed to make the statement available but confirmed that TAG would not release the audit. Cllr Radley asked whether the report contained commercially sensitive information. Could a précis be released? Mr Walker agreed to examine the audit and confirm whether or not it could be released.

Action : Mr R. Walker

3. TAG INFORMATION REPORT

3.1 Cllr Radley referred to Section 2.2 and asked whether the LEq was the maximum observed. Ms Wood said the figure was an average calculated for a compressed 16 hour period using 6 months data. An average would not show whether the contour was violated. The contours are produced by the INM programme by calculating the noise for each movement and compressing them into a 16 hour period.

Mr Marks said that the noise contour is a cap. Residents should be satisfied that the cap is not exceeded on each day; accordingly the focus should be on the maximum figure.

Mr Walker said that TAG measures noise on the basis set out in the S 106 Agreement ie. over a 6 month period.

Mr Marks said that, in his view, TAG must show that it has not exceeded the limit at any time. He felt that residents needed a better understanding of this technical issue. Mr Walker said that TAG would be happy to assist. He said that Rushmoor BC had never challenged TAG's reports. Mr Marks said that Rushmoor should be involved in any briefings. Cllr Taylor agreed that a meeting would be useful but he stressed that the S 106 Agreement could not be changed. Mr Marks disagreed.

It was agreed that a meeting to discuss this issue would be arranged.

Action : Mr Marks

Mrs Radley referred to section 3 of the Report (Air Quality Monitoring) and asked whether there are any changes in the figures recorded over time. It was confirmed that this information appears in the reports sent by TAG to Rushmoor and is also shown on the website.

Cllr Radley referred to Section 5 (Complaints) and to a complaint made on 7th November. Would this be noted in subsequent reports? Ms Wood confirmed that this would be the case. Cllr Radley also mentioned that data for some months seemed to be missing. Mr Walker said that TAG was endeavouring to provide a report for each month but the task was becoming an increasing burden.

The Chairman asked whether the TAG Information Report and the Report to Rushmoor could be combined into a single report. Mr Walker said that the reports contained different information. The TAG Information report was more comprehensive. TAG will try and improve the quality of the information contained in the report but there were obvious resource limitations.

Cllr Taylor noted that 90% of movements listed in the Report were compliant. It might be useful if the Report summarized which movements were compliant and which were not. He questioned whether residents were familiar with the definition of a non-compliant flight. Could a leaflet be produced explaining the definitions?

Mr Walker said that the form of the Report had evolved from the Committee's deliberations and contained the information that the Committee had requested. He felt that if the issues were explained more fully, this would inevitably lead to further questions. Could members assist by explaining the definitions to their organisations?

Mr Marks accepted that the members representing residents associations had a responsibility to ensure that their communities obtained a better understanding of the issues. However, residents needed to feel that their concerns were being addressed. As it stands, the Report is not good enough. People wanted the circumstances, in each case, to be explained to them.

The Chairman noted that the FACC website contained a lot of relevant information.

Cllr Dibbs said that Rushmoor receives a monthly report whereas the TAG Information Report is issued every 4 months. The information in both reports is the same.

Mr Khalek asked whether TAG relies purely on the complaints line or does it investigate potential violations even if these are not always the subject of a complaint from a member of the public. Ms Wood said that TAG monitors all tracks every day and investigates deviations. She said that very few deviations were not already known

to TAG when a complaint is received. Mr Khalek suggested that TAG only reports non-compliant flights. Cllr Argent said that he had some sympathy for TAG. He asked whether TAG issues the same letter to a complainant making multiple complaints. Ms Wood confirmed that this was the case. Cllr Argent felt that frivolous and repeated complaints should be ignored.

Cllr Taylor suggested that TAG could indicate in the Report where a deviation had already been noted and was under investigation when a complainant rings up. Mr Walker confirmed that this could be done.

Sir Donald Spiers said that he agreed with the points made by Cllr Taylor. He also noted that much of the traffic which was the subject of complaints had not originated at Farnborough.

Mrs Radley said that her members had been delighted with their tour of TAG's facilities.

The Chairman invited Mr Cairns of Farnborough International to comment on the SBAC airshow held in July 2006. Mr Cairns said that orders announced at the show were valued at \$42BN of which \$36BN were for civil products and the remainder military. The exhibitors were very satisfied with the event. In reply to a question, Mr Cairns said that the increase in orders over the last show in 2004 was in the region of \$5 – 6 BN.

4. Appeal by TAG Farnborough Ltd against refusal by Rushmoor Borough Council to consent to an application to vary condition 11 of planning permission 99/00658/OUT

4.1 Sir Donald Spiers said that since the last meeting of the Committee, TAG had appealed against Rushmoor Borough Council's refusal to amend the planning consent. He said that a public enquiry was due to commence on 23rd January 2007 and was scheduled to last for 4 days. The Inspector was Mr Kenneth Smith. Both TAG and the opponents of the application would be legally represented. The last day for the submission of representations to the Inspectorate was 9th November. As the appeal was pending, TAG could not say anything further on this matter.

5. Membership of the Committee

In response to a request from the Committee at its previous meeting, the Secretary circulated a table showing those members that had not attended some or all of the meetings over the last two years. Although some members had missed one or two meetings, the only member who had consistently failed to attend (or to give apologies for absence) was the North Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry. A number of members deplored this fact. The Chairman invited the views of the Committee. Cllr Scrivens suggested that a sub-committee should be formed to consider the selection of a new member to replace NHCCI. Mr Marks said that, when

the Committee was originally formed, Rushmoor BC had received applications for membership from a number of local organisations. He suggested that Rushmoor should be asked for the list.

Cllr Dibbs agreed that, in view of its attendance record, NHCCI should be replaced. He offer to liaise with Rushmoor on the selection of a new member. A lengthy discussion ensued on the appropriate selection procedure and it was agreed that the following steps should be taken :

1. NHCCI should be asked to resign its membership of the Committee
2. The vacancy for a new member in the 'Local Interests' category should be advertised in the local press.
3. A sub-committee should be formed to consider applications. The sub-committee would comprise :

Mr Marks
Cllr Dibbs
Cllr Scrivens
Sir Donald Spiers

Actions : The Secretary to place advertisements in the local press inviting nominations for membership. The costs of the advertisements will be born by TAG.

Cllr Dibbs to convene the sub-committee to applications and to make a recommendation to the next meeting of the Committee on 15th March 2007.

The Secretary to write to NHCCI informing them that, due to their non-attendance at 4 or more meetings of the Committee, they are requested to resign with immediate effect.

6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

6.1 Mr Lambert expressed his concern at the lack of transparency of the selection process discussed under Item 5.

6.2 A member of the public referred to an article in Aviation Week which mentioned plans by TAG to expand its fleet management and charter flight operations. Mr Walker explained that the TAG Group comprised a number of companies of which TAG Farnborough Airport was one. Other companies in the TAG Group were involved in the activities to which the questioner referred. As far as charters were concerned, this referred to the hiring of the whole aircraft by one company or

organisation; it did not mean charters in the sense of unscheduled services which were used by a number of individuals.

6.3 Mr Kirby questioned whether the statement made by Sir Donald Spiers at the meeting on 6th July 2006 to the effect that TAG accepted the decision of Rushmoor to refuse the application to increase weekend movements was correct. Sir Donald said that his statement was indeed correct – TAG had accepted that the Council was entitled to reject the application and had therefore continued to operate within the existing planning permission. However, he had also said, at that meeting, that TAG was considering the option of appealing the decision and subsequently it had decided to do so. Mr Kirby also questioned whether the Committee members were aware of their statutory responsibilities. The Chairman said that the Committee was indeed aware of its role and referred to Section 35 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 under which there was a requirement for TAG, as the airport operator, to establish a consultative committee. He also referred to the balance of the Committee which covers the three interest groups – users, councils and local interests.

7. COMMITTEE'S WEBSITE

The chairman invited Mr Lambert to speak about the Committee's website.

Mr Lambert reminded the Committee (and, in particular the Secretary), that the website details should be included on all correspondence. He said there had been nearly 700 unique visits to the site in July but the current monthly rate was about 200. The complaints pages are less well used than some of the other parts of the site. Some improvements to the site are envisaged including a better search facility. The Committee's minutes, agendas and meetings papers are available on the site.

The Chairman thanked Mr Lambert for managing the site and suggested that the vacancy for a local interest organisation to join the Committee should be advertised on it.

Cllr Argent complimented Mr Lambert on the quality of the website.

8. MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ISSUES THAT ARE NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mrs Radley referred to a written question from Fleet and Church Crookham Civic Society requesting more information on the items mentioned in the Complaints section of the TAG Information Report. For example, could the report refer to the type of aircraft? It had not been possible to identify all the incidents listed in the Report because additional information about the aircraft had not been provided. Mr Walker said that the Report could contain whatever information members requested although he questioned whether it was possible for an observer on the ground to distinguish between different aircraft types.

Action : Mr walker to consider what additional information can be included.

Mr Khalek asked whether the residents were satisfied that the TAG Information Report is accurate and concise. Mrs Radley said that there were occasions when more information would be useful.

A discussion ensued about compliance with flight rules and noise issues. Cllr Scrivens observed that these issues would become more prevalent as the number of movements at Farnborough increased. He questioned whether the issues were being dealt with in the right way. Clearly noise was the 'big issue' for the Committee and he felt that residents needed a better understanding of the rules and models. Mr Walker said that TAG would be pleased to discuss these matters with the residents associations at each end of the runway. It was therefore agreed that a meeting would be convened involving Mrs Radley, Mr Marks and Mr Walker.

Action : Mr Marks, Mrs Radley, Mr Walker

[Cllr Argent left the meeting]

Cllr Radley asked whether TAG were on schedule with Phase 3 of their aerodrome development plan. Mr Walker said that the phasing had changed since the original planning consent was secured. Phase 1 was complete. Phase 2 (for which TAG had outline consent) comprised additional hangars. This phase was still the subject of a feasibility study and no financial approvals had been given by TAG's owners.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on 15th March 2007. Subsequent meetings will be held on 12th July and 1st November 2007.

The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.20pm.