

FARNBOROUGH AERODROME CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
“keeping people informed”

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2ND JULY 2009
IN BAE SYSTEMS, FARNBOROUGH**

Present:

Philip	Riley	FACC Chairman
Richard	Appleton	Hart DC
Laurence	Armes	Ash Parish Council
David	Attfield	Farnham Town Council
Rod	Dean	Farnborough International Ltd
Roland	Dibbs	Rushmoor BC
Mike	Drew	Surrey Heath BC
John	Gregory	FACC Secretary
Peter	Hill	FCOT
Paul	Jones	NATS
Marwan	Khalek	GAMA Aviation
Daphne	Knowles	Mytchett Frimley Green & Deepcut Society
Geoff	Marks	Farnborough Aerodrome Residents' Assoc.
Brandon	O'Reilly	TAG Farnborough
Chris	Pitt	Surrey CC
James	Radley	Hart DC
Jenny	Radley	FCCS
Paul	Taylor	Rushmoor BC
Miles	Thomas	TAG Farnborough
Wally	Epton	WJE Associates Ltd
Roger	Walker	TAG Farnborough

Item 1. Apologies

Victor	Duckett	Waverley BC
John	Harrocks	North Hants Chamber

Item 2. Minutes of Meeting held on 5th March 2009 and Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

The Chairman welcomed Rod Dean of Farnborough International. He informed the Committee that there would be a presentation on public safety zones at the November meeting. Rushmoor Borough Council advised members that a report had been circulated on how environmental money is allocated.

The Chairman informed the Committee that meetings in 2010 will be held on Thursday 4th March, Thursday 1st July and Thursday 4th November.

Item 3. Designation of Farnborough under the Civil Aviation Act

The Chairman welcomed Frank Evans of the Environmental Division of the Department for Transport and asked him to address the Committee. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

Frank advised the Committee that the emphasis is to balance airport activities with the environment and that Stansted, Heathrow and Gatwick airports are dealt with at government level. Other airfields are invited to resolve issues at local level. Frank outlined the requirements for designation and the procedures needed to achieve this.

Members were keen to understand the benefits and disadvantages of designation. In response reference was made to the national guidelines and how these are operated at the local level and the statutory duty on consultations which are normally covered by section 106 agreements. It was agreed that the Committee would receive an annual report from Rushmoor Borough Council on the operation of the section 106 agreement.

Action: Chairman to liaise with Rushmoor Borough Council.

It was explained that if designation was in place and issues could not be resolved at the local level then appeals are made to the government rather than the local authority. Councillor Appleton advised the Committee that enforcement under the Planning Acts is the responsibility of Rushmoor Borough Council but planning enforcement is a discretionary function of the local authority. In response to questions regarding statutory consultation on planning applications Frank Evans advised the Committee that he would seek guidance on this issue and report back to the Chairman.

Action: Chairman

The Committee was anxious to understand what powers it had under designation to influence decisions and whether it would be consulted on new guidelines. It is open to the local authority to adopt its own levels of noise as no legislation exists which sets precise levels.

Item 4. Farnborough Air Traffic Zone

The Chairman welcomed Peter Marks of the CAA and invited him to address the Committee. A copy of Peter Marks' presentation is attached to these minutes. Peter explained the classification of airspace and referred to the controls in place and the increase in traffic levels, particularly VLJs (very light jets) and general aviation, and there is often a need to balance commercial and military requirements with environmental considerations. At Farnborough there must be a flexible use of airspace as it is within an extremely complex area. CAP 725 relates to airspace changes and there is a seven stage process necessary to make these changes.

Brandon O'Reilly advised the Committee that changes in processes normally take two years and that the master plan proposes procedures relating to greater control of airspace which should benefit local residents through more precise flight paths and safety procedures.

Members were keen to understand the environmental objectives which Peter Marks advised related to air quality and noise. Councillor Appleton advised that Hart District Council would like to see controlled airspace. Brandon O'Reilly stated that TAG would support changes which proposed more precise flight paths which give maximum environmental benefit. Paul Jones said that NATS would like to see controlled airspace for the benefit of all users including arrangements for gliders and balloons. Geoff Marks agreed there should be a balanced approach to noise mitigation but was concerned as to why the CAA did not make submissions when there are development proposals under flight paths. Peter Marks offered to clarify this situation and advise the Chairman.

Action: Chairman

Members were keen to understand whether the number of flights affected the classification of airspace and were advised that there was no finite number but as movements increase then the need for change increases. The Committee was advised that any individual or organisation can request a change but must comply with all CAA requirements.

Item 5. TAG Information Report

Brandon O'Reilly reported that for the period January 1st to June 30th there were 11,404 movements, a 15% decline from last year. Weekend movements were 2,498, a 29% increase, and larger aircraft were 247, a 28% increase. TAG had increased its market share due mainly to weekend movements.

A planning application to increase the number of movements to 50,000 had been lodged with Rushmoor Borough Council on 8th June with a deadline for representation by 27th July. Work has restarted on the new hangars. Brandon appeared before the Transport Select Committee and was asked to give evidence on the 2003 White Paper, the third runway at Heathrow and aircraft capacity within the south east.

The Committee is keen to understand new helicopter flight paths as there was a perception of increased helicopter noise. This will be considered as part of the quiet flying programme.

Action TAG

There was concern regarding noise contours and whether these apply only to aircraft in and out of Farnborough or whether they also apply to aircraft

having to fly over Fleet to land on runway 24. Jenny Radley asked whether under air quality monitoring Rushmoor Borough Council has undertaken an assessment as referred to in para 3.3 of the report. Councillor Dibbs advised that attention is being given to a specific complaint relating to odour but no overall assessment. Councillor Appleton asked what changes there were in employment numbers at the airport relating to TAG and airport operators. The Chairman advised that in his opinion this was not part of the remit of the Committee and invited Councillor Appleton to contact TAG and the operators direct. Councillor Appleton explained that part of the justification for the increase in movements related to economic factors and that he considered this to be an important issue. Brandon O'Reilly advised that current level of employment at the airport is stable.

Reference was made to the vulnerability of airport operations relating to vandalism and it was agreed that any security breaches would be referred to in the information report. Roger Walker advised that TAG complied with the national aviation security programme and that independent audits are undertaken on a random basis.

Action: TAG

Item 6 Complaints Report

Jenny Radley highlighted occasions when ATC permission was given for deviations, particularly at weekends and was advised that this often occurred due to gliding activities at Odiham and that where possible aircraft were held on the runway to avoid this situation. However there is a balance between the increase in pollution and noise by holding aircraft.

Item 7. Planning Application

The Chairman referred the Committee to the statement issued by Rushmoor Borough Council. Councillor Appleton drew members' attention to guidance issued to councillors by the Local Government Association, particularly in relation to pre application discussions. A copy of Councillor Appleton's statement is attached to these minutes. Councillor Appleton was keen to meet with Rushmoor officers to discuss matters of fact and procedures to mitigate the impact of increased movements on Hart residents. Geoff Marks referred to the use of noise contours and would welcome a meeting with TAG and RBC to investigate these issues, together with public safety zone matters. He offered to make available correspondence before such a meeting.

Brandon O'Reilly stated that TAG would be happy to meet with Councillor Appleton and Geoff Marks to discuss relevant issues and Keith Holland of Rushmoor Borough Council said that he or a member of his staff would be happy to meet to help them to understand issues raised by the proposals in

the application. Councillor Taylor stated that as a Rushmoor Borough Councillor he was happy to hear any views on the application.

Daphne Knowles advised the Committee that the recent QFP report is included in the planning application as a justification for an increase in movements and that the three residents' representatives are mentioned as contributory to this recommendation. The three representatives are concerned that the report complaints data, if used alone, would indicate that the QFP trials failed to achieve their objective; that the noise data as presented requires further analysis in order to draw any recommendations; that further clarification on noise data and statistical analysis is needed and that they have not agreed to the report being used to support the planning application.

Councillor Appleton asked what new mitigation measures are proposed as part of the planning application. Brandon O'Reilly reported that there is a new travel plan, there will be a ban on all but the most efficient aircraft, noise insulation proposals, odour control, nox emissions, a bio diversity action plan, proposals to assess the carbon footprint and an application for a new air traffic change. TAG will notify the Committee of the details of these procedures.

Action: TAG

James Radley was concerned as to whether there were any proposals to change the noise contours and public safety zone due to assessments using new modelling procedures, particularly has TAG has assessed the PSZ under old modelling methods and whether there would be advice to Rushmoor if new measures were disadvantageous to residents. Brandon O'Reilly advised that the area of the noise contour will not change but the shape may. Members were keen to understand whether the noise contour imposed any constraints on the number of movements, the types of aircraft, flight paths and incentives for quieter flying and what mechanisms there are in place to promote quieter aircraft.

TAG advised that there will be a ban on all non chapter 4 aircraft and that there may be fiscal measures in place to promote quieter aircraft. Currently under this procedure approximately 1,000 movements would be banned. It was agreed that future information reports would state the percentage of complaints which relate to chapter 4 aircraft.

Action: TAG

Item 8. Report on Quiet Flying Programme

The group posed two questions to the Committee – firstly was it the Committee's wish that the group should continue, and secondly should Rushmoor BC be invited to join the group? The Committee was unanimous in asking the QFP group to continue and accepted the offer by

Councillor Taylor to represent Rushmoor on the group. Councillor Appleton asked that the group considers helicopter routes and Geoff Marks was keen that noise abatement procedures should seek to reduce the number of people affected, but agreed that it was within the remit of Rushmoor Borough Council to determine new noise abatement procedures.

Item 9 Website Update

Norman Lambert reported that there were approximately 380 hits on the site each month, many from around the world. He invited members to use the site to their advantage.

Item 10 Questions from Members of the Public

In response to a question Brandon O'Reilly advised that Rushmoor Borough Council monitors business movements through reports provided to them and Councillor Dibbs stated that these reports are available for examination by the public.

David Seall wished to know the composition of the QFP group and whether this could be increased to include a Farnham representative. He remained concerned that in spite of previous requests the maps presented to the Committee did not cover the whole of the built up area of Farnham. The Chairman responded that consideration would be given to the composition of the Committee and that he would request TAG to revise the map coverage.

Action: Chairman

Local newspapers suggested that there would be an additional 5,500 jobs as a result of the expansion of the airport. TAG responded that this was not correct and that the new jobs created would be approximately 1,500.

A Cedar Road resident enquired about details of flights north of the normal flight path and whether infringements are investigated. TAG responded that every movement is audited and that action is taken on every complaint received.

Norman Lambert asked whether the Head of Planning at Rushmoor would be happy to meet with him to discuss his concerns and if there are complaints about the FACC Committee these should be made to Rushmoor. The Chairman advised that he would hope that any complaints about the Committee would be made to him in the first instance and Rushmoor Head of Planning advised that he would consider any requests for meetings.

Mr. Shepherd of CPRE referred to climate change issues and the number of flights from Farnborough which are within the UK. TAG responded that 29% of all movements had a destination within the UK.

A Ewshott resident referred to the effect of gliders from Odiham at weekends and whether there was communication between Farnborough and Odiham. Paul Jones of NATS replied that there are no staff on duty at Odiham at weekends but they do have clearly agreed procedures.

A resident asked that considerations regarding revised control airspace should apply to all parties

Item 9 Date of Next Meetings

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee will take place on ***Thursday 5th November 2009, at 14:00hrs at the Park Centre, BAE SYSTEMS.***

Meetings in 2010 will be held on:

- ***Thursday 4th March,***
- ***Thursday 1st July and***
- ***Thursday 4th November.***