

## **Consultative Committee**

### **DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE**

#### **3 DECEMBER 2020 – VIRTUAL MEETING**

PRESENT: A Tolhurst OBE (Chair)

A Bosmans (FODSA), Parish Councillor R Castle (Substitute for Finningley Parish Council), Councillor M Cooper (Doncaster MBC), Councillor S Cox (Doncaster MBC), Town Councillor A Cropley (Bawtry Town Council), Councillor L Curran (Doncaster MBC), Parish Councillor P Edwards (North East Bassetlaw Forum / Misson Parish Council), Councillor M Greenhalgh (Doncaster MBC), G Levett (Doncaster MBC), Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), K Moran (Doncaster Sheffield Airport), A Shirt (Committee Secretary), K Stow (Doncaster Sheffield Airport), Parish Councillor I Swainston (Auckley Parish Council), Councillor F Tyas (Doncaster MBC) and Parish Councillor J Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council)

Apologies for absence were received from Town Councillor N Cannings (Tickhill Town Council), Parish Councillor J Clarke (Finningley Parish Council) and Parish Councillor S Crawford (Austerfield Parish Council)

#### **1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

A Tolhurst welcomed everyone to the remote meeting of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee. An extended welcome went to Parish Councillor Rob Castle, Substitute Member for Finningley Parish Council.

#### **2 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A Tolhurst opened the meeting stating that, like so many others he was getting used to virtual meetings, but given yesterday's excellent news about vaccine use it looked as though the Committee might be able to meet next time in person. More especially, the news should allow businesses to start planning with some confidence. Albeit, there was always Brexit to contend with.

As of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020, people arriving in the UK from non-air-bridge countries will be able to reduce quarantine time by more than half, if they pay for and pass a Covid test. In fact, Wizzair has a partnership with Confirm Testing to provide tests for its flights. The Committee would have to wait and see if vaccine use will change current arrangements.

In other good news, the SCR Mayor had announced a £72 million package to build back better from Covid. There will also be a £100 million pot available next year for UK airports. He anticipated that an update would be provided later in the meeting and what impact the funding will have on DSA.

He also asked if airport representatives could touch upon the recent DfT decision not to support the current rail link proposal, on which Dan Fell had so eloquently wrote to the Yorkshire Post.

**3**     MINUTES OF THE NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2020

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 be agreed as a correct record.

**4**     MATTERS ARISING

i)     Briefing Note on DSA’s Airspace Changes – Circuits undertaken by training aircraft at DSA

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that it would be useful for local Parish Councils to have a document which set out the circuits undertaken by training aircraft at DSA.

The Committee noted that DSA would provide the information, on the basis that this is not shared with members of the public, as there was the potential for the information to be wrongly interpreted.

**ACTION: K Moran to produce a document setting out the visual flight rules (VFR) flight tracks undertaken by training aircrafts over the last 6 months. The document would be circulated to Blaxton, Bawtry, Finningley and Misson Parish Councils via the Committee Secretary.**

ii)    New Community Facility at Hayfield Lane

K Stow provided a verbal update on the outstanding matters affecting completion of the project.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a separate meeting would be held after today’s meeting with K Stow, Councillor Cox and Parish Councillors Worthington and Swainston to understand the concerns of Auckley Parish Council.

**5**     THE BUSINESS TRAVEL NEWS ARTICLE - 'AOA CONFERENCE AND SHAPPS' - PUBLISHED ON 16TH NOVEMBER 2020

The Committee noted the contents of a Business Travel News article entitled ‘AOA Conference and Shapps’ published on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the Business Travel News article be noted.

6 THE BUSINESS TRAVEL NEWS ARTICLE - 'THE GREEN ECONOMIC RECOVERY' - 'THE PRIME MINISTER'S TEN-POINT PLAN' - PUBLISHED ON 23RD NOVEMBER 2020

The Committee noted the contents of a Business Travel News article entitled 'The Green Economic Recovery – The Prime Minister's ten-point plan' published on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the Business Travel News article be noted.

7 REPORT OF THE GLOBAL TRAVEL TASKFORCE: PRESENTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER BY THE SECRETARIES OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT AND FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Committee noted the contents of a Department for Transport (DfT) Report of the Global Travel Taskforce presented to the Prime Minister by the Secretaries of State for Transport and Health and Social Care.

The report set out 14 recommendations by the Government's Global Travel Taskforce in response to the impact of and specific challenges posed by Covid-19 to support international travel and tourism industries.

K Stow reported that there were currently five different initiatives DSA were currently working with Government on. These ranged from the Regional Air Connectivity Review, to the Global Travel Taskforce.

DSA representatives had recently had a telephone conference call with Robert Courts MP, (Minister for Aviation and Maritime), prior to the Global Travel Taskforce report being published.

Robert Courts MP had discussed the outcomes of the Global Travel Taskforce report and those which would be specifically helpful for DSA. The announcement that there would be a £100m package of support available from next year to provide support for 24 airports which had been hit by travel restrictions as a result of the coronavirus pandemic had been very welcomed by the aviation sector.

Upon closer examination, DSA would be able to claim up to £8m in rates relief, for one-year only, up to the end of the current financial year (2020/21).

A Bosmans said he was delighted to note that DSA had taken part in discussions with the Global Travel Taskforce. Furthermore, the airport would need to keep lobbying both local and regional politicians to ensure DSA's voice was heard.

The Committee discussed the current situation at length and noted that there has been a lack of Government action to support the UK aviation sector during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A Tolhurst reported that, on behalf of the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC), he had written a letter to Sheffield City Region Mayor Dan Jarvis, regarding the lack of financial support for Aviation in general and airports in particular, together with a request for the Mayor and local authority Leaders to support DSA both regionally and nationally.

Members were informed that Peter Kennan (LEP Board Private Sector Transport Lead) had been invited to attend the Airport Consultative Committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to provide a LEP Board briefing to the ACC.

Members of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee were invited to attend the ACC meeting.

K Stow advised Members that sustainability was becoming a major challenge for airports and airlines. DSA was currently in the process of producing a Sustainable Growth Road Map, which was anticipated to be available towards the end of January 2021.

DSA's Sustainable Growth Road Map would include detailed carbon calculations, for both ground operations and air operations. The Sustainable Growth Road Map would forward forecast the operations and summarise them in terms of a gap analysis and the strategies which could be established to become net zero. Although DSA could control ground operations, the challenge for the airport would be to monitor air operations.

There was an industry requirement for efficiency in relation to aircraft operations. DSA was very fortunate to have TUI and Wizzair based at the airport, who both had a very efficient fleet and strong green credentials.

The entire aviation sector was currently a long way off meeting net zero targets.

DSA was currently engaged with the University of Sheffield with regards to sustainability. In particular, the use of hydrogen vehicles and the work being undertaken at the AMRC by engineers specialising in lightweight technologies was very interesting to the airport. It was anticipated that the airport may be able to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Sheffield at a later date, to support research and development for aviation.

Concluding her update, K Stow highlighted that, sustainability was a large area for aviation, which would see the Government not providing financial support and backing for the aviation sector.

A Tolhurst advised Members that a Webinar on Sustainable Aviation Fuel was scheduled to be held later today at 4pm. He added that, sustainability was a very large agenda, to which, the aviation industry was currently examining, not least, different fuel types, electric aircraft and changing airspace to reduce the amount of time aircrafts were in flight.

RESOLVED – That the contents of DfT's report be noted.

## **8**     **AIRPORT ACTIVITIES UPDATE REPORT**

K Stow provided a verbal update on the DSA rail link scheme.

Members noted that, following the Government's rejection of the proposal for an airport rail link, partners were actively examining a series of delivery options for the railway scheme, both for the Lincoln line and East Coast mainline.

Partners were awaiting news on how the Green Book Review may influence the DfT's decision not to fund the scheme, due to it not being considered value for money.

Members noted that Nick Fletcher MP, was scheduled to meet shortly with Chris Heaton-Harris MP (Minister of State for Transport) to discuss the objections put forward by the DfT for the railway link scheme.

Members discussed the involvement of the Sheffield City Region (SCR) and Doncaster MBC in the scheme and questioned if even more support could be provided by them.

K Stow said that the airport had regular discussions with Mayor Jones and Doncaster's MBC Chief Executive, Damian Allen.

It was reported that a Mandate had been set and championed by Mayor Jones, Damian Allen and other local authority Leaders for the Sheffield City Region to find a way to support DSA.

The Mandate required officers within the LEP and MCA to deliver urgently and quickly on the Mandate set by Leaders.

Members noted that strong progress had been made with a unified Leaders' position. In addition, the Economic Blueprint document was now policy for the Sheffield City Region, which set out very clearly how the airport and the development of Gateway East would transform the economic prosperity of the region.

The Committee discussed how other local authorities, in particular Bassetlaw District Council and Lincolnshire County Council and their local MPs could help to support the airport.

In response, K Stow acknowledged that there was further work to be undertaken by the airport to gain the support of both Bassetlaw District Council and Lincolnshire County Council. Support for DSA had been expressed by Bassetlaw MP, Brendan Clarke-Smith and from Rother Valley MP, Alex Stafford, following approaches made via Nick Fletcher MP.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

**9**     **AIR TRANSPORT MOVEMENTS AND QUIET OPERATIONS POLICY REPORT - 1ST SEPTEMBER TO 31ST OCTOBER 2020**

K Stow informed the Committee that aircraft movements at DSA had been limited over the last couple of months due to the ongoing pandemic. It was noted that TUI and Wizzair would both re-commence limited flights during week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> December.

DSA anticipated that operations would not return to normal until well into the 2021.

The Committee received a presentation from K Moran regarding the Air Transport Movements and Quiet Operations Policy report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

The presentation included analysis of the number of air transport movements, number of complaints and individuals from each area (with and without the regular individual) and the total number of complaints compared to the previous year.

The presentation also detailed DSA's annual number of complaints and total air transport movements from 2005 to 2020, the number of night time departures from Runway 20 for the period September to October 2020, the number of Quota Count 4 Movements from November 2010 to October 2020, the number of Quota Count Points from April 2005 to October 2020 and the number of Engine Tests undertaken during the period September to October 2020.

During the period a total of 9 noise complaints had been received, although 6 were from one individual and 3 were not. It was noted that the majority of the complaints were relating to training flights. There had been no complaints received relating to engine tests.

The Committee acknowledged that, when passenger flights re-commenced their operations at DSA, it was very likely that the number of complaints being received from local residents would increase.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.

#### **10**    ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

K Moran reported that DSA would be looking to contract Liverpool John Lennon Airport colleagues to provide Environmental assistance at DSA for an interim period.

It was anticipated that a recruitment process to appoint a permanent Environment and Sustainability Manager would be undertaken during March 2021 onwards.

#### **11**    COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND APPLICATIONS

Parish Councillor McCarron reported that Blaxton Village Hall had submitted an application to fund urgent electrical repair work at the Village Hall. Unfortunately, the application had taken four months to be considered by DSA before a reply was received.

K Stow apologised for the delay. She explained that the airport was unable to fund a retrospective funding claim. However, if there were other items which the Village Hall required, the airport would be very pleased to receive further application(s) for consideration.

Parish Councillor McCarron suggested that a reminder be issued to local villages that they are able to submit applications to the Community Investment Fund. Furthermore, she recalled that, when the fund had been originally established, it was to be utilised by villages around the airfield who had been impacted the most by activities at the airport.

K Stow said that the fund would support those communities in close proximity of the airport, but discussions / background research would need to take place to determine if this should remain the case.

K Stow acknowledged that the Community Investment Fund criteria now required a review / re-fresh to understand the needs of the community and target audiences. It was agreed that a separate meeting be arranged to discuss the Community Investment Fund criteria in further detail. **ACTION: A Shirt to arrange a MS Teams video call with K Stow, A Tolhurst and Cllr Cox.**

Councillor Greenhalgh reported that an application had been submitted to the airport to fund the repair of the Maypole sited in Wadworth.

K Stow replied that the application was currently being considered by the airport.

## 12 FEEDBACK FROM SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### i) FODSA

A Bosmans reported that a number of FODSA Members were currently shielding at the present time. Due to practicalities of interacting with passengers, it was impractical for FODSA Ambassadors to currently undertake their role at the airport.

FODSA Members had continued to keep in contact with each other throughout the pandemic. Three 'Lockdown' letters had been produced and circulated to all FODSA Members. A fourth 'Lockdown' letter was scheduled to be produced shortly.

### ii) Thank you to Members of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee

K Stow thanked Members for all their contributions at today's meeting and for continuing to engage with the airport. She wished everyone Glad Tidings for the festive season.

A Tolhurst joined K Stow and also thanked Members for all their contributions and took the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and enjoyable holiday season.

## 13 SCHEDULE OF 2021 MEETING DATES

RESOLVED – That future meetings of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee be held on:-

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

All meetings will commence at 10:00 am.

## 14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further items of business were noted.

15 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee be held on Thursday 25th March 2021 at 10:00 am.

CHAIR