

WYCOMBE AIR PARK JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON
21st May 2019**

PRESENT

Mr R Pushman	Chairman
Councillor Z Ahmed	WDC Member, Sands
Councillor D Broad	Hambleden Parish Council
Mr N Phillips	Sands Residents' Association
Mr B Tranter	Booker Common & Woods Protection Society
Mr R Russell	WAPAG & Frieth Village Society
Mr C Goss	Claymoor Park Residents Association
Mrs M Sarney	General Manager, Wycombe Air Park
Ms J Moore	Booker Gliding Club
Mr M Greenwood	AAA
Mr B Watts	AAA
Mr J Smith	Divisional Environmental Health Officer

(4 members of the public were in attendance)

1. As there were one or two new members of the public present, the Chairman reiterated the purpose of the public participation period. In addition, he explained that when this had finished, he would declare the official JCC meeting open, at which time the public were requested to remain silent. However, during the course of the meeting, the Chairman stated that the public may be asked to elaborate on certain points and that should be conveyed through him. He also reiterated that this was a friendly meeting and he wished that to remain.

2. Public Participation

Q. J Mills, resident Moor End stated that there were many more flights over her property, in particular there had been around 30 planes in one hour flying over the top of her property. Easter weekend had been particularly bad.

A. M Sarney advised that recently the wind had been in a certain direction and therefore a different runway had been in use more frequently, which took aircraft over her property. This was not the seasonal norm and M Sarney had not known this to be the case previously. The meeting was also advised that whilst some aircraft were high and therefore noise did not penetrate as much, some were lower over the cottages in order to make the turn and were much noisier, which as a result, made it feel that there was more activity. M Sarney advised that Bucks New Uni students were required to undertake circuit training which would usually take place from R24. However, as stated, there had been a long period when R06 had been in use, which was quite unprecedented. However, if aircraft were too low, that could be investigated. When students were on that phase of training it was usually completed in one block fairly quickly. M Greenwood advised that when in the air, there was no fixed line and pilots needed to look at where they positioned themselves and if there were crosswinds, which then blew them, it was hard to judge when to turn. Lord Parmoor's property was close

by and if aircraft were too low then they needed to power back to gain height, causing noise, which he frequently notified.

Q. C Goss enquired if there was an agreement that only a certain number of planes could be in the circuit at any one time.

A. This was confirmed as 5. However, there was currently a shortage of Air Traffic Controllers (ATC's) and therefore the air park experienced some closures. This then meant that when flying was able to resume there was greater concentrated activity, rather than flying being spread throughout the day.

Q. C Goss also asked if the proposed runway move would adversely affect the residents of Claymoor Park.

A. J Smith confirmed that WDC was still in discussion with Booker Gliding Club and in addition the Local Plan required formal confirmation. WDC would encourage the relocation of the gliders providing certain areas of the air park could be redeveloped. Booker Gliding Club stated they could not afford to move, so were reliant on WDC funding same. Therefore, if the gliders relocated to the south side, circuits would change and some residents may see more activity. However, there was currently no timescale set for this, although J Smith stated that he considered this may be in the next couple of years. There would be much more work involved in this, which would include various risk assessments.

Q. N Phillips queried the number of planes allowed in the circuit at any one time and it was confirmed that on R06 there were 4 and on R24, 5.

M Sarney extended an invitation to residents to fly a circuit and the Chairman recommended that this be taken up.

The JCC proper then took place at 6.45 pm.

- 3.** The Chairman advised that at the last meeting he had announced his intention to stand down as Chairman, and that a suggestion had been that he continue until the Unitary Authority came into effect. R Pushman confirmed that conversations had continued along these lines and in the interests of continuity, he would stay on for another three or four meetings, with of course, the consent of those present. R Russell stated that he was pleased to hear he would remain.

4. Duration of Meeting

This was anticipated to be between 1-1.5 hours.

5. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Councillors M Harris, C Whitehead, I McEnnis, Z Ahmed, D Barnes, N Dunn, M Detsiny, A Mann and R Martyn.

It was noted that the absence of WDC Councillors this evening was due to a meeting in respect of the new Unitary Authority in Aylesbury.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential make-up of the new Unitary Authority, which may be based on different divisions and therefore J Smith advised that the constitution and membership of this committee may need to be revised as ward membership may change. It was agreed this should be kept under review as progress with the Unitary Authority continued.

Action – J Smith/S Fryer

6. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2019

The minutes of 20th November were tabled and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. C Goss advised that for the record, he was not the Chairman of the Claymoor Park Residents Association, but their representative.

7. Update on Noise Action Management Plan

M Sarney advised that actions were still ongoing as the air park steadily worked through the plan and therefore she had nothing concrete to report but hoped at the next meeting to be

able to report more.

She confirmed that the noise action management plan had been signed off by the Secretary of State for the Environment and she suggested all review it, as it stated certain aims and intentions, which would be discussed at these meetings.

N Phillips enquired about the status of silencers. M Sarney advised that the idea had not been written off but equally would not happen overnight.

N Phillips also enquired whether the Cessner 152, which had recently been written off, had been replaced, and if so, with what. He was advised that it had yet to be replaced and that S Brown had shown interest in the two seater Piper aircraft and the aim was to eventually change the fleet over to Piper aircraft. N Phillips further enquired how the noise from a Piper compared to that of a Cessner, as the lease suggested that any new aircraft should be quieter.

The Chairman requested that an update on the intentions for the fleet going forward be reported at the next meeting.

Action – M Sarney

Discussion turned to noise and R Russell stated that largely this was determined by the situation in which the pilot found himself – noise would be louder if he/she needed to gain height and he suggested that a key principle was that trainee pilots were conscious of this. M Greenwood confirmed that trainees did follow the NAZ rules and he completely accepted the public's concerns.

C Goss considered that if there was a 'different' aircraft in the circuit, then noise complaints were likely to increase. M Greenwood stated that if a more modern fleet was procured, they would produce a different noise and therefore residents needed to be advised and understand this.

M Sarney added that with all the constraints to which the air park was currently under, it did not make a great deal of money, and therefore any investment in the fleet would require the taking on of a substantial loan and would not be done lightly.

N Phillips enquired if the statistics had been circulated and this was confirmed in the positive. However, N Phillips stated that April's stats appeared to be missing. M Sarney confirmed that she would rectify this and distribute same.

Action – M Sarney

N Phillips continued in that R35 had been in use today and that he had received complaints. In addition, every now and again a twin or similar flew past and ignored the NAZ. There had been a noisy plane today which was quite regular. M Sarney confirmed that a M600 travelled to Faro once or twice a week. In addition, there had been a noisy helicopter, although M Sarney advised that there were now less helicopters as one company had relocated to White Waltham at the end of December 2018 because of the loss of income it had experienced due to the flying restrictions in place.

8. Complaints Procedure

M Sarney confirmed that the complaints procedure was being reviewed to see how it could be improved and she asked all to give some thought to this and provide comments directly to her.

Action – All

Currently complainants can phone in, a form is then filled in and uploaded to the online system and investigated in conjunction with the tracker and discussions with the Head of Training. However, M Sarney confirmed that whilst this was done, feedback to complainants did not happen in every single instance. However, if this was important, M Sarney asked that this be sent through as feedback. R Russell stated that when he had visited the website, his

experience was that the complaints page did not exist. However, B Tranter looked it up at the meetings without problem.

N Phillips enquired if the weather section of the air park's website was in use as he found that particularly useful. He was advised that the weather station was temperamental but that a fix had been found and it would now be updated again.

Discussion took place around if a complainant stated something had happened 5 times, whether it was recorded 5 times. M Sarney confirmed that it was recorded and counted as 5.

9. Community Matters

Armed Forces Day would take place on Saturday 29th June from 1-6 pm and would generate significant noise with an air display and stunts. Tickets were free via the Bucks County Council website.

The Elite Show had taken place without an air display and a driving option had taken its place.

AeroExpo 14/15/16 June would involve a short air display using a glider and pyrotechnics.

Finally, a minute's silence was observed to remember David Phillips, previous Air Park Manager, and ex RAF, who had been involved in a fatal aircraft accident in Dubai. M Sarney would express the JCC's condolences when she attended his funeral.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Towards the end of September. The Chairman and Secretary to confirm the date.

THIS WAS NOW CONFIRMED AS TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 6.30 PM AT THE AIR PARK.