

Minutes of the Consultative Committee Meeting held at
Leeds Bradford Airport
Wednesday 08 December

Members Present:

Alan Wrigley	Chairman
Marilyn Banister	Menston Parish Council
Prof Andy Marvin (Sub)	Vale of York Gliding Clubs
Philip Boyes	TUC
Mr K Cothliff	Aireborough Neighbourhood Forum
Cllr S Cunningham	City of Bradford MDC
Cllr G Dixon	Baildon Town Council
Mr B Dunsby	Harrogate District Chamber Commerce
Cllr B Felstead	Burley in Wharfedale Parish Council
Cllr Pauleen Grahame	Leeds City Council
Cllr R Gilmore	Rawdon Parish Council
Cllr L Goodhall	Yorkshire Local Council's Association
Steve Goodwill	Burley in Wharfedale Parish Council
Cllr I Greenberg	Yorkshire Local Council's Association
Martin Hughes	Local Resident Rep – Horsforth
Cllr H Lee	Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council
Paul Moss	Sherburn Aero Club
Heather Ruane	LBA Support Group
Cllr C Trotter	North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr P Wadsworth	Leeds City Council
Cllr N Walshaw	Inner North West Community Committee

Members Apologies:

Keith Batty	Vale of York Gliding Clubs
Cllr C Campbell	Local Resident Rep - Yeadon
Cllr P Robinson	Otley Town Council
Cllr R Jones	Horsforth Town Council
Frazer McKinstry	Ryanair
Cllr J Howard	Bramhope & Carlton Parish Council
Alex Hornby	Transdev

Airport Officers Present:

Vincent Hodder	Chief Executive Officer
Damian Ives	Operations Director
Nicola McMullen	Aviation Director
Charles Johnson	Head of Planning Development
Rachel Hawkes	Executive Assistant (Minute Taker)

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting.

Charles Johnson advised apologies have been received from Keith Batty, Cllr Campbell, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Jones and Frazer McKinstry.

POST Meeting – Apologies from Cllr J Howard & Alex Hornby

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The September minutes had been circulated ahead of the meeting and were ratified by the committee as a true representation of the discussions that had taken place.

3. Organisational Announcements

CJ advised the committee that there were no organisational changes since the last meeting.

4. Business Update

Nicola McMullen, Aviation Director, attended the meeting to provide a business update.

October half term performed very well, passenger numbers were 50% of those seen pre-Covid. The new variant has slowed down passenger numbers due to the uncertainty it brings and we are therefore anticipating a much softer winter than originally expected. Passenger numbers are expected to exceed pre-Covid levels in the FY 23/24 however.

Unvaccinated British travellers over the age of 12 are not permitted to enter Spain, we are expecting other restrictions to be imposed in the coming weeks although, at this stage are unsure what they could be.

Q: How does the predicted growth in passenger numbers tie in with COP26 and the need to reduce emissions?

A: Planes are becoming increasingly efficient and quieter and while there may be a short term increase in emissions due to an increase in passenger numbers, this will decrease over time as new planes are brought on board. The airport is actively reducing its own emissions and has reduced CO2 emissions by 45% over the last 6 years. LBA is also supporting its airline partners in the reduction of their emissions. A media announcement is scheduled to take place tomorrow outlining LBA's sustainability ambitions.

Q: Is there testing at LBA?

A: Yes, we work with NPH Group who provide onsite testing.

Q: Is the testing mandatory?

A: For use of the NPH facility, a booking must be made.

Q: Is it a lateral flow test?

A: No, day 2 tests are now PCR tests as per the government guidelines.

Q: When do you need to complete your PCR test by?

A: The PCR test must be completed by day 2 of your return from overseas.

Q: Do you get the results quicker if you have a test at the airport?

A: We advise results are emailed within 24-48 hours as the tests are sent to an off-site laboratory.

Q: Passengers are not being told that regional airports offer the testing facility. There is no mention of airlines promoting NPH.

A: Airlines will have their own suppliers whom they promote.

Q: Surely the airlines are promoting testing?

A: Yes, just not our supplier (NPH).

Alan Wrigley: Airlines I have used do not actively promote the testing.

A: Via our own advertising, we do actively advertise NPH.

5. PR & Media Update

Following requests made at the September meeting, Katie Eborall and Thomas Hall from LBA's PR company, Grayling, joined the meeting to provide an update.

Katie & Tom discussed various pieces of social media and stakeholder engagement's that had taken place over the last 2 years, these included but were not limited to:

- Project Sky Application & Plans Panel
- Various new route launches
- Significant management appointments
- LBA's 90th Birthday
- Crisis preparation
- Covid Management
- Covid Recovery

Over the last 2 years, 1,066 LBA mentions have appeared in the media. Grayling also support LBA in managing negative stories.

Q: Ken Cothliff - why didn't the Yorkshire Post cover the 90th Birthday?

A: Yorkshire Post has their own archive so tend to run their own stories.

Q: Ken Cothliff – There was no coverage of the Lapland flights.

A: We haven't worked on that story, our time of late has been focussing on another LBA event.

Q: Perhaps more technological information needs to be published on how we get to net zero. Many objections to Sky are to do with carbon emissions.

A: We have done some project work on this subject.

Q: LBA suffered with hostile letters, former airport management decided not to respond.

A: It depends on the situation, we would normally deal with individual complaints one to one. Where public inaccuracies exist, then we would try to comment in public.

Q: Neil Walshaw: some of the material released in regards to Project Sky may not have been accurate.

A: Everything that we put out was accurate.

Further comments were made in relation to the ITV documentary which was aired in 2019. It should be noted that at the time of filming, Grayling were not working with LBA.

6. ACC Terms of Reference

Alan Wrigley outlined that the Terms of Reference for the ACC had been reviewed as he didn't feel the membership was broad enough. Alan wanted to ensure the attendance to the ACC was independent from LBA. Draft ToR had been issued to the membership in advance of the meeting and comments on the content were requested.

Q: Names on the membership are not important, however, it would be good to see someone from the Outer North West Community Committee.

A: We will look into that.

Q: Do we have enough representatives from local environment and residential groups?

A: We have tried to ensure every community is represented. Any suggestions on who should be here can be reviewed. We are encouraged by the many council representatives that are in attendance.

No further comments received from the committee, it was agreed to approve the Terms of Reference with a review date of 3 years from now. Although, it should be noted that amends can take place during this period.

7. Noise & Track Keeping

Tracey Stevenson attended the meeting to present the noise and track keeping for the period.

Q: Is there a change in flight path for light aircraft?

A: Not that we are aware of, light aircraft don't need to follow the noise preferential route.

Q: Can we have the geographical spread of the noise complaints, the numbers from each area?

A: Yes of course. A note would be issued following the meeting addressing these query and others raised by Cllr Walshaw.

8. Terminal Redevelopment

Charles Johnson provided the committee with an update on the terminal redevelopment.

It is now 9 months since the plans panel took place for Project Sky. LBA have submitted enquiries to government office for an update and Vincent wrote to Michael Gove on his appointment to Secretary of State in September. We are hoping to hear something in the New Year but we have no indication as to when a decision is likely to be made on the application.

As a back-up plan, we are looking to implement the 2019 planning approval. This is the plan to extend the current terminal and would accommodate larger baggage reclaim and immigration facilities and a new departure lounge. It would make the existing terminal bigger by around 20%.

Q: I assume the 2019 consent will have an expiry date, what will you do if you implement those plans and then Sky is approved?

A: The expiry date on the 2019 application is 3 years from the date of approval, therefore it expires in January 2022. When a decision is eventually made on Sky and the decision notice issued, we will be able to decide which consent to progress with.

Q: If you've carried out pre commencement works, can you hold further?

A: Yes.

Q: What about the earlier application?

A: The 2009 consent is still an option although if the 2019 extension is implemented, this will replace the 2009 consent.

9. AOB

Alan Wrigley advised that the Yorkshire Gliding Club had enquired into the possibility of an Airspace Change update each meeting. Charles Johnson confirmed that Jamie Babbin (Air Traffic Services Manager) would be brought to every other meeting to provide an update on the ACP.

Q: There was only 1 gliding club mentioned on the ACP but there are 4 gliding clubs.

A: The submission date has been extended to the 24 December so the other 3 gliding clubs can respond to the Airspace Change.

Q: Has there been many fines issues from drivers abusing the red lines?

A: The red lines have made a difference however, we do not receive any data in relation to the number of fines issues. Paul Wadsworth advised that the ward data he has received recently, shows that 2,400 tickets have been issued.

There were no further comments so the chair declared the meeting closed.

Meeting Dates for 2022;

02 March @ 2pm – LBA Media Suite
08 June @ 2pm – LBA Media Suite
07 September @ 2pm – LBA Media Suite
07 December @ 2pm – LBA Media Suite