

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
2 DECEMBER 2021 AT 1.30 PM (VIRTUAL)**

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Present: Mr Colin Flack OBE – Chairman

In attendance from Birmingham Airport Company:

Nick Barton	- Chief Executive
Simon Richards	- Chief Finance & Engineering Officer
Andy Holding	- Corporate Responsibility Manager
Tom Redfern	- Head of Sustainability (to December 2021)
Rosie Bishop	- Environment Specialist
Tom Denton	- Head of Sustainability (from December 2021)
Jon Davies	- Energy and Carbon Manager

In attendance from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council:

Mr L Stevenson	- Representing the ACC Secretariat
Balsall Parish Council	- Cllr K Tindall
Barston Parish Council	- Mr D Elliott
Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council	- Mr J Horton
Birmingham City Council	- Cllr M Ward
Birmingham City Council	- Cllr D Donaldson
Castle Bromwich Parish Council	- Cllr J Macdonald
Catherine de Barnes Residents Association	- Mr D Cuthbert
Coventry City Council	- Cllr K Miks
Consumers Association	- Mr P Orton
Hampton Society	- Mrs J Hilton
Kingshurst Parish Council	- Cllr D Cole
Knowle Society	- Mrs E Baker
North Warwickshire Borough Council	- Cllr D Reilly
Sheldon Residents Association	- Mrs M Kennett
Passengers Representative	- Mrs R Tyler
Warwick District Council	- Cllr G Illingworth

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Warwickshire County Council	- Cllr M Watson
Wychwood Club	- Mr G Heaps

Apologies were received on behalf of: -

Balsall Common Village Residents Association	- Mr D Ellis
Berkswell Parish Council	- Cllr R Lloyd
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr Mrs A Rolf
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Mrs B Hill

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN 2021/2022

The Committee was advised that, subject to the adoption of the proposed revisions to the Committee's Constitution, the Airport Company (BAL) had invited Mr Colin Flack OBE to continue with his appointment as Independent Chairman of the Airport Consultative Committee for 2021/22 and to hold office for a further 12 months until the next Annual General Meeting.

RESOLVED

That the proposed revisions to Section 7 of the Committee's Constitution be approved and the ongoing BAL appointment of Mr Colin Flack OBE as Independent Chairman of the Airport Consultative Committee for a further 12 months be endorsed.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed new and existing Members of the Committee and representatives from the Airport Company (BAL). Apologies were as noted by the Secretary and the Airport Company.

It was noted that Mr Paul Orton (The Consumers Association) was shortly to retire from the Association and from the Committee. The Committee thanked Mr Orton for his support, wisdom and contributions to the work of the Committee over many years and wished him well for a long and relaxing retirement.

The Committee was also informed that Mr Tom Redfern would shortly be leaving the Airport Company to begin a new career role elsewhere. The Committee thanked Tom for his support and contributions to the work of the Committee over several years and wished him well for the future in his new role. The Airport Company also introduced and welcomed Tom Redfern's successor; Mr Tom Denton.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman's welcome and recorded apologies be noted.

3. ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Nominations and seconders were sought for the position of Consultative Committee Vice-Chairman for 2021/22 to hold office for 12 months until the next Annual General Meeting.

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RESOLVED

That Mrs Rosemary Tyler be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Airport Consultative Committee for 2021/22 (unopposed appointment).

4. CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE ANNUAL REVIEW

The Committee was advised of two proposed revisions to the Committee's Constitution that had been recently been discussed and endorsed by the Steering Group. The proposed revisions related to Section 5 - Membership and Section 7 - Appointment of Independent Chairman. There were no matters of concern raised and the proposed revisions were supported.

RESOLVED

That the proposed revisions to Section 5 and Section 7 of the Committee's Constitution be approved and adopted.

5. ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF STEERING GROUP MEMBERS

The Committee was invited to appoint, from its membership, its Steering Group Members for 2021/22. The Airport Company also highlighted that future Steering Group meetings would continue to be held virtually.

RESOLVED

That the future meeting arrangements be agreed and the following ACC appointments be confirmed for 2021/22:

- Mr D Cuthbert, representing Catherine de Barnes Residents Association;
- Mr J Fox, representing Marston Green Resident's Association;
- Mr J Macdonald, representing Castle Bromwich Parish Council; and
- 1 vacancy (to be offered in the first instance to a Member representing the North Warwickshire area).

6. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES TO THE BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT COMMUNITY TRUST FUND

The Committee was invited to appoint, from its membership, its Community Trust Fund Members for 2021/22.

RESOLVED

That the following ACC appointments be confirmed for 2021/22:

- Mr D Cuthbert, representing Catherine de Barnes Residents Association;
- Mrs M Kennett, representing Sheldon Resident's Association; and
- 1 vacancy (expressions of interest to be notified to Andy Holding andy.holding@birminghamairport.co.uk).

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7. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ACC MEMBERSHIP

The Committee was invited to consider a request to extend the membership of the Consultative Committee to include increased representation from the North Warwickshire area. The written report set out the background to the request which had also recently been considered and endorsed by the Committee's Steering Group.

North Warwickshire Borough Council (Cllr D Reilly) – spoke in support of the request and advised the Committee that, if approved, a Member of their “Northern Area Committee of Parish Councils” would be nominated.

RESOLVED

That the Committee approves the proposed addition of one new Member to represent a recognised and accountable body from the North Warwickshire area (to be confirmed by the nominating body in writing to the Secretary lstevens@solihull.gov.uk).

8. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, held virtually on 2 September 2021, were submitted. There were no matters arising.

RESOLVED

The Minutes of the last meeting be agreed as a correct record.

9. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Chairman provided a further update on his work as Chairman of UKACC's which included his observations on the recently held UKACC's Annual Meeting of Chairman and Secretaries.

The Chairman also highlighted that the value of ACC's was now becoming more obvious at a national level within both the DfT and the CAA. He specifically highlighted the previous excellent work that had been undertaken at Birmingham with the ACC regarding the Night Flying Policy. This was seen as an example of best practice and was testament to the strong working relationship now seen between the Committee and the Airport Company.

Other areas of his report included the growing interest in the value of ACC's by the Aviation Minister and the anticipated publication of the Aviation Strategy by the end of the year/early 2022.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman's update be received and noted.

10. PRE-SUBMITTED QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE & MATTERS ARISING

The Committee was advised that, on this occasion, there were no pre-submitted questions.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

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11. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT

The Airport Company (Nick Barton and Simon Richards) - presented the new format of the Airport Activities report for the period July to September 2021. The report set out updates on the following matters:

- Passenger Statistics.
- ATM's
- Aviation Development.
- Key Stakeholder Engagement.
- Complaints Statistics.
- PRM Performance.
- Customer Satisfaction.
- Social Media.
- Security Wait Times.
- Immigration Performance.
- Baggage Delivery Performance.
- Cleaning Performance.
- On-time Turnaround Performance.

General Updates

When introducing the report, Mr Barton drew the Committee's attention to the headline issues pertaining to the ongoing impact of Covid-19 since his last detailed briefing to the Committee in September this year. In summary, this included the recently introduced restrictions for air travel arising from the Omicron variant of Covid-19. Those restrictions were anticipated to be short-term for the industry.

Additionally, Mr Richards highlighted the following key points from the activities report:

- Steady passenger growth had been seen between September and November, albeit the effect of Omicron on that continued growth was currently uncertain at this time.
- Some challenges were being seen within customer services (ground handling and baggage) due to some staffing shortages; and within airport lounges as some of those passenger facilities had not yet reopened. Lastly, security queuing times had received poor feedback as passenger perception indicated that they were too long. Work was underway to understand and improve this. High standards of customer service was being maintained for passengers with reduced mobility. Good feedback was also being received on the cleanliness of bathrooms and the terminal was still subjected to intensive cleaning regimes.
- The launch of Flybe 2.0 had now been announced and routes were anticipated to commence in Q1 2022. The airline had also relocated its head office to Birmingham Airport.

Discussion Points

The Knowle Society (Mrs E Baker) – advised the Committee that she had recently arrived into Birmingham from Lanzarote shortly before the new travel restrictions were implemented. Mrs Baker highlighted that all staff at Birmingham Airport upon her arrival had been helpful and it had been a very positive experience as a passenger.

Balsall Parish Council (Cllr K Tindall) – stated that he had recently travelled through Birmingham Airport and had experienced some problems upon arrival with baggage return.

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Cllr Tindall welcomed the ongoing work being undertaken by BAL to address the current ground handling and baggage return issues.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the Airport Activities Report for the period July to September 2021 be received and noted.

12. SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

The Airport Company (Tom Redfern and Rosie Bishop) presented the Sustainability Report for the period July to September 2021. The report set out updates on the following matters:

- Sustainability Update.
- Noise Violations.
- Night Flying Policy.
- Engine Ground Running.
- Air Traffic.
- Aircraft Activity Complaints.
- Air Quality.
- Waste (Recycled).
- Energy.

In addition to the report, the Committee also received the minutes of the Noise Sub-Group that was held on 27 October 2021 and a presentation on Climate Change Adaptation. Mrs Rosemary Tyler also summarised the recent work of the Noise Sub-Group for the Committee's information and the hand-over arrangements for the Group's work streams to BAL's new Head of Sustainability.

Discussion Points

Warwickshire Country Council (Cllr M Watson) – highlighted that it would be really useful to have objective data for off-track flying to allow him to communicate/respond to residents enquiries. The Airport Company (Tom Redfern) stated that it was hoped that publicly available data would be published early in the new year which should be of use to all members when responding to residents enquiries/complaints.

Catherine de Barnes Residents Association (Mr D Cuthbert) – stated that over the last few weeks, residents of Catherine de Barnes had reported a perception in increased noise levels and asked if this may be attributable to the amount of vegetation being removed locally to facilitate road works. The Airport Company (Tom Redfern) advised that the perception of increased noise was most likely to have come from the steadily increasing number of air traffic movements. Vegetation would have had to be extremely dense to have any acoustic benefits and these were not the characteristics of the vegetation being cleared in that local area.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the Sustainability Report for the period July to September 2021 be received and noted.

13. AIRPORT HEALTH FORUM UPDATE

The Committee's Passengers Representative and Vice-Chairman (Mrs R Tyler) gave an update to the Committee on the current position of the Airport Health Forum.

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Mrs Tyler advised that the Forum had still not met for some time and that attempted dialogues with Solihull Council (in readiness to restart the Forum and identify and agree its future priorities) had not as yet been successful.

In light of the current position, it was suggested that the Committee should now write to Solihull MBC (Public Health, Planning and Councillors TBC after the meeting) voicing its concerns over the delays. This course of action was supported by the Committee.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the update be received and noted; and
- (ii) That the Committee write to Solihull MBC voicing its concerns regarding the delays to the work of the Airport Health Forum.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business on this occasion.

RESOLVED

That the agenda item noted.

15. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting would be Thursday 03 March 2022 at 13.30hrs. The venue and format of the meeting would be confirmed nearer the time.

RESOLVED

That the date of the next meeting be noted.