

EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

HELD AT EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 6 AUGUST 2008

PRESENT:	Roy Stuart (Chairman)	East Devon Business Forum
	Councillor Nick Pring (Vice Chairman)	Clyst Honiton Parish Council
	Jamie Christon	EDAL
	Gary Holley	Flybe
	Councillor Noel Finnegan	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Councillor Ian Holmes	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Councillor Bernard Limb	Woodbury Parish Council
	Councillor Jack Smith	Farringdon Parish Council
	Rufus Heald	Exeter Flying Club
	Mr N Heald	Exeter Flying Club
	Councillor Don Axford	Bishops Clyst Parish Council#
	Councillor Stella Brock	Exeter City Council
	Councillor Barry Nicholson	East Devon District Council
	Moira Trigger	Rockbeare Parish Council
	John Payne	EDAL
	Richard Bristow	Aviation South West
	Chris Lane	Democratic Services Officer
APOLOGIES:	John Spooner	EDAL
	Tony Salter	Farringdon House Committee

The meeting started at 2.15 pm and ended at 3.20 pm.

*12 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 June 2008 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

*13 **Matters Arising**

Civil Aviation Act 2006 (min no *6 refers)

Members noted that the airport would hold a meeting in September to speak to Royal Mail and their operators, at which time the issue of the introduction of quieter more environmentally friendly planes on Royal Mail night flights from Exeter International Airport would be raised.

*14 **Draft Master Plan for Exeter International Airport**

The Consultative Group noted that the Draft Master Plan had now been completed and had been launched on 1 July. A copy had been sent to all known members of the Consultative Group at the end of June. The Airport had been extremely pleased with the responses from the local community and media coverage, with 50 comments received so far. These comments had been in the main positive.

The exhibition stand had now been moved to its fourth location and each time seemed to generate new media coverage from the local press. The Airport team had so far spoken with Devon County Council, Exeter Chamber of Commerce, Institute of Advanced Motorists, Exeter Business Forum, East Devon District Council, Farringdon and Broadclyst Parish Council, Angela Browning MP and Ben Bradshaw MP. Consultation closed on 30 September and it was hoped to have the final version of the Master Plan completed by November 2008 to send to the Department of Transport, Civil Aviation Authority and East Devon District Council.

*14 **Master Plan for Exeter International Airport (Cont)**

Members asked several questions arising from the Master Plan. These included:

- that the exhibition at Ottery St Mary Institute had been locked for a period of time during the day, due to unavailability of the caretaker;
- that the number of bus services to serve the Airport needed to be increased;
- the daily rate for using the car parks at the Airport could be expensive compared with some other Airport, unless booked on line;
- that the draft Master Plan was very comprehensive and it was hoped that the Airport could live up to its contents.

Councillor Jack Smith from Farringdon Parish Council wished to express his thanks to Stephen Ayres for EDAL for attending a meeting of the Parish Council to explain the Master Plan.

Jamie Christon and the Airport team be congratulated for producing such a comprehensive draft Master Plan.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

*15 **Report of the Managing Director**

Consideration was given to the verbal report of Jamie Christon, Deputy Managing Director, EDAL.

The Consultative Group noted that since the last meeting, the unfavourable economic conditions had begun to effect passenger numbers at the Airport. Passenger numbers for June 2008 were equivalent to June 2007, but it was anticipated that the July figures would show a reduction of 2.8%. This was mainly due to Flybe reducing their services to Glasgow, Norwich and Newcastle, with the Norwich and Brussels services being removed entirely later in the year.

However, the charter business remained strong with encouraging growth in routes to places such as Dalaman, Larnaca, Analya and Gran Canaria. Thomson had confirmed that the First Choice charter plane would remain based at Exeter Airport for the rest of 2008 and into 2009. The aviation business as a whole was finding it tough in the present economic conditions with many airports showing double digit reductions in passenger numbers.

Jamie Christon reported that Exeter Airport had taken steps to reduce business costs a which would help to retain profitability. There were also opportunities for cost saving through integration with the Blackpool Airport business. He expected that winter market conditions would be hard and last month the Airport had reforecast passenger numbers downwards based on these economic conditions. The Airport predicted the year end showing similar passenger numbers as last year.

Members noted that there would be a rise in military flights in August with the Airport hosting, the Red Arrows, Jordanian Falcons, Typhoons, Battle of Britain Memorial Flights and RAF Tornado.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

***16 Complaints Handling**

John Payne, Operations Director reported that there had been a total of 5 specific noise complaints since the last meeting. The first was from Whimple and concerned a complaint about a low flying aircraft over a house. This complaint was outside the 2.5 mile exclusion zone. A letter had been sent explaining this and the Civil Aviation Authority address supplied.

The second complaint also came from Whimple and concerned the number of departure routes over Whimple. A letter had been sent explaining the departure procedures from the Airport. The third complaint was from Teignmouth and concerned an early morning aircraft over Teignmouth for the last 12 months. The complainant was telephoned to explain about the departure routes and that the noise could be an Air South West plane from Plymouth.

The fourth complaint was an email regarding the DC3 operating pleasure flights. An email was sent back explaining about the farewell tour of the DC3. The final complaint was from Whitestaunton in Somerset and concerned low flying jets over the Blackdown Hills. An email was sent explaining about the Instrument Landing System and possible flights from Yeovilton.

Councillor I Holmes reported that there had been a plane at 6.25am on 26 July circling around Otter St Mary 4 – 5 times. It was noted that this was the First Choice airways 320 plane that had difficulty landing due to adverse atmospheric conditions.

Members noted that considering the number of aircraft movements at Exeter International Airport, that this was a remarkably low level of complaints and the airport staff should be congratulated on this achievement.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

***17 Date of the next meeting**

RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Group be held on Wednesday, 15 October 2008, commencing at 2.15 pm.

Chairman Date