

EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXETER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT CONFERENCE ROOM, EXETER AIRPORT ON WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2015

PRESENT:	Councillor Richard Bartlett (Chairman)	Woodbury Parish Council Farringdon Parish Council
	Councillor Angela Fletcher (Vice Chairman)	
	Matt Roach	EDAL
	Stephen Wiltshire	EDAL
	Paul Willoughby (Item *7 only)	Flybe
	Councillor Henry Gent	Broadclyst Parish Council
	Councillor Phil Twiss	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Don Axford	Bishops Clyst Parish Council
	Chris Lane	East Devon District Council
	John Smith	East Devon District Council
	Sam Thomas	East Devon District Council
	Councillor Ian Holmes	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	Councillor Noel Finegan	Aylesbeare Parish Council
	Lynne Askew	Clyst Honiton Parish Council
	Rufus Heald	Airport User
	Jo Talbot	Ottery St Mary Town Council
	David Mason	Rockbeare Parish Council
	Andy Wood	East of Exeter Projects
		Director
	Dave Montgomery	Clyst Honiton Community Association
APOLOGIES	Oonagh Reffell	Flybe
	Ian Payne	
	Janet Wallace	EDDC

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 3.15 pm.

- *1 **Election of Chairman**
RESOLVED that Richard Bartlett be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.
- *2 **Appointment of Vice Chairman**
RESOLVED that Angela Fletcher be appointed Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.
- *3 **Appointment of Secretary**
RESOLVED that East Devon District Council be invited to continue to provide the secretary to service the Consultative Group meetings for the year.
- *4 **Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on the 18 February 2015, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

*5 **Visit to Exeter Airport**

Members wished to thank the Directors of EDAL for hosting the interesting and informative visit to the Airport by the Consultative Committee earlier in the day, which had further enhanced members' knowledge of the variety of activities that were undertaken at Exeter Airport in line with DfT guidelines.

*6 **Report of the Managing Director**

Consideration was given to the report of Matt Roach, Managing Director, EDAL.

The Consultative Committee noted that passenger numbers for January 2015 were 32% higher than January 2014. February was 22% up on the previous year and March was 17% up on prior year. It was anticipated that April 2015 would show a 4% increase in passengers. One of the reasons for the growth in domestic scheduled passenger traffic was the continued improvement in load factors, with Flybe working to improve load factors on all its routes with a more competitive price structure. The summer's schedule had been launched and bookings were looking very encouraging.

It was noted that improvement works to the B3184 had now been completed and the road was now more in keeping with access to an International Airport. The Executive Lounge had opened at the end of February and had proved very popular with passengers. The Airport had been consulted on a number of applications from Cranbrook, particularly on the southern expansion. There had been a number of additional staff employed for the summer season and generally the future of the Airport looked promising.

Matt Roach, Managing Director, EDAL reported that there had been a number of visits to the Airport during the period, including from Patrick McLaughlin, Secretary of State, Chris Garcia, Chief Executive of the South West LEP, senior directors of Tui and the Chief Executive of Birmingham Airport.

Members expressed some concerns about the comments made below by the Flybe representative about the viability of the London City route and were very keen to show their support for this route. This support could include reminding their parishioners about the route in their local parish magazines.

- RESOLVED**
1. that the report be noted;
 2. that members wished to indicate their support for the Flybe London City route and would not wish to see it removed from the Flybe route schedule.

*7 **Report from Flybe representative**

Paul Willoughby, Flybe reported that the 2015 summer schedule was looking good for Flybe with every route receiving better bookings than 2014. There was a new route to Deauville in France, which members of the Consultative Committee were encouraged to book or advertise to their parishioners. The Winter Programme was being prepared and Flybe would do their best to ensure there were no route cancellations; the programme should be ready in June. It was also noted that load factors on routes were generally achieving 70%.

However, Members noted that load figures for the London City route were lower than Flybe would like to see and it was planned to make the return flight earlier in the evening, which it was hoped would improve load factors on the return flight.

Paul Willoughby reported that he was awaiting a decision from the Government on a request for financial assistance with funding for a route out of Exeter. It was noted that social media and digital marketing had proved a very cost effective means of marketing the summer schedule for Flybe.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

*8 **Complaints Handling**

Stephen Wiltshire, Operations Director, EDAL reported that there had been two enquiries and one complaint since the last meeting. The first enquiry was from Kingskerswell and concerned a twin engined plane undertaking circuits and the engines stalling. The second was from a resident of Woodville Road, Exeter and was questioning why flights went over their house at certain times of the year. The complaint was regarding a Globemaster aircraft and was sent to the RAF's Low Flying Complaints Unit.

*9 **Any other business**

Cranbrook Town Council

Members discussed whether it was appropriate to invite a representative of Cranbrook Town Council to attend Consultative Committee meetings. It was noted that local communities were already well represented on the Committee.

RESOLVED that a Cranbrook Town Council representative be not invited to attend Consultative Committee meetings at the present time.

*10 **Date of the next meeting**

RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting of the Consultative Committee be held on Wednesday, 22 July 2015, commencing at 3.15 pm.

Members noted that Andy Wood, East of Exeter Projects Director, was preparing a programme for visiting the East of Exeter projects. It was proposed to visit the Eon Energy Centre, Sky Park, Science Park, Cranbrook Station, the Education Campus and schools and also some housing developments. In response to a question Andy Wood reported that he expected the Tithebarn Link to be opening in June 2015.