**Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**11th June 2024**

**Present Representing**

David Haley (DH) Chair

John Littleton (JL) Deputy Chair

Eric Mackinlay (EM) Brunswick Parish Council

Steven Phelps (SP) Dinnington Parish Council

David Down (DD) Hazlerigg Parish Council

Cllr Richard Dodd (RD) Northumberland County Council

Cllr Sarah Burtenshaw (SBs) North Tyneside Council

Cllr Lyle Darwin (LD) Ponteland Town Council

Mick Henry (MH) Which? Consumer Representative

Gordon Ferguson (GF) Woodlands Park Residents Association

Cllr John Usher (JU) Sunderland City Council

Scott Savin (SS) Darras Hall Estates

**For Newcastle International Airport (NIAL)**

Alice Andreasen (AA) Chief Sustainability and Communications Officer

Kate Hall (KH) Head of Marketing and Communications

Jack Ravenscroft (JR) Carbon Reduction Manager

Adam Ewart (AE) Airport Planner

1. **Welcome from the Chair**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and the Airport representatives, including JR and AE who are subject matter experts in Airport Planning and Sustainability.

AA was also welcomed to the meeting as the Airport’s new Chief Sustainability and Communications Officer.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Fiona Raje (FR) Consumer Representative

Cllr Elizabeth Scott (ES) Durham County Council

Emma Vierira (EV) Woolsington Residents Association

Cllr Steve Fairlie (SF) Newcastle City Council

1. **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The Committee agreed the minutes of the last meeting were an accurate representation.

Matters arising from the previous meeting were discussed.

* DH suggested JB contacted Northumbrian Water to understand if they had any portable air monitoring equipment that could be of use specifically to monitor air quality in Hazlerigg Village.

AE updated the Committee that the Airport would be undertaking a one-month monitoring programme in Hazlerigg during the summer, with up to 10 monitors available to use. The Airport is awaiting information from the Parish Council on the exact locations that the monitoring can take place.

* KH confirmed that the minutes from the recent Noise Sub Committee meeting and the paper from the Noise Action Group had been shared with the Committee.
* AE confirmed that the Airport had contacted Newcastle City Council on behalf of the Committee to inform the appropriate officers of its support for Red Route.

RD highlighted the risk to Ponteland once the Red Route has been put in place. DH reminded the Committee that the parking is a Highways issue and that the Airport will continue to monitor the effects of the Red Route, positive and negative, and work with the Councils as they are currently doing.

AA reminded the Committee about the 15 minutes free parking provision in the Short Stay 2 car park and the Taxi waiting area at Bellair.

SP suggested re-communicating with the local Taxi companies about the provision at Bellair.

**ACTION:** Airport to communicate with local Taxi providers about the waiting area provision at Bellair.

LD asked if the onsite Police team had the powers to move cars parked at Prestwick Road End.

AE confirmed that the onsite Police team do look at this area on a regular basis and the Airport has recently written to all onsite employees to deter them from being dropped off or collected in this area.

AE confirmed that the Airport had contacted National Highways in relation to adding additional signage into the A696 layby. They will not make any changes and the Airport is now in discussion with the Council.

* KH updated the Committee that the issue of Taxis speeding through Dinnington had been raised with the Taxi operator and asked if residents could share any numberplates of the offending vehicles.
* KH confirmed that there had been no direct contact from EE regarding gaining access to fix their mast on Airport land.

DD asked about an additional bin that had been requested for Hazlerigg. AE confirmed that the request was currently sitting with the Parish Council.

1. **Chair’s Update**

The Airport and the Chair are discussing a new format for the Airport report to make it more visual. The Airport will also look to bring a subject matter ‘expert’ to present at future meetings.

**ACTION:** If anyone from the Committee has any suggestions for presentation topics, please contact the Secretary.

**ACTION:** KH to send the weekly National ACC news bulletins to the Committee members

DH updated the Committee on the CAA’s work on a new set of guiding principles for noise complaints. Newcastle Airport is fairly advanced in dealing with complaints regarding noise and we will be feeding the work that we have been doing into the national picture.

A stakeholder engagement group was held in April, with UKACCs in attendance. The group discussed the effectiveness of the Noise Action Plan and of the DEFRA guidance. Some of this work has stalled due to the general election but we will continue to monitor.

DH confirmed that the CAA environmental report was published at the back end of 2023, the CAA is reflecting on the next steps and a biodiversity report will be published in the next 6-8 weeks. The next round of the climate adaptation report will be published by the end of the year.

The next annual UKACCs meeting will be held in Leeds at the end of November, JL will be in attendance on behalf of Newcastle.

SP asked if the new Noise Action Plan has been approved.

AE confirmed that is awaiting approval from the Secretary of State.

**ACTION:** Airport to arrange copies of the approved document to be printed and distributed around local libraries.

1. **Company Report**

AA took the Committee through the Company Report.

Passenger numbers were up 13% in Q1 2024 versus 2023. The uplift can be attributed to an increase in the number of flights from KLM and British Airways, as well as more holiday flights to Spain and Turkey in February and March.

Security continues to perform well despite the increase in passenger numbers. The newly designed security search area is now complete and 98% of passengers continue to be processed through security in 10 minutes or less. Over 100 new staff have been recruited to ensure the Airport can continue to deliver an exceptional passenger experience over the summer season.

Passenger Assistance continues to see an increase in the number of passengers they support, with a 22% increase in Q1 2024 versus Q1 2023.

Marketing and Communications have been focused on ensuring passengers are aware of the security process rules and promoting the new catering and lounge products available in the departure area.

The Airport recently held a media day for 6 local journalists who were given a private tour of the new catering and executive lounge outlets.

Internal communication with our staff continues, and the Airport is delighted to be the headline sponsor of the North East Chamber of Commerce Inspiring Female Awards in 2024 – aligning to our equality, diversity and inclusion agenda.

The Airport celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week in May, with staff provided with mental health guidance and invited to take part in a lunch time ‘walk and talk’ with the Airport Chaplains.

In 2024 the Airport sponsored the Newcastle Eagles basketball team which resulted in over 300 free tickets being given away to staff across the site. AA confirmed that the Airport is looking at alternative sponsorship options for 2025 which will also bring benefit to colleagues.

Car park bookings continue to be strong, with 97% of the Airport’s car park spaces expected to be filled during the peak summer period.

**ACTION:** Airport to invite members of the ACC airside at the next meeting to experience the new outlets.

AA continued that in Q1 the Airport had received 246 noise complaints from 13 individual complainants.

DH informed the Committee that the Noise Sub Committee is proactively looking into the complaints and the new complaints form provides a lot more data which allows the group to dig deeper into the complaints.

**ACTION:** SP suggested it would be a good idea to invite the CAA to one of the Noise Sub Committee meetings. Airport confirmed it would action.

SP asked if the noise monitor had been implemented at Dinnington First School.

AA confirmed that the Airport had received agreement from the school and in return the Airport has invited the school into the business to provide pupils with an insight into what the noise monitor will do.

DH confirmed that due to holidays a date for the Noise Sub Committee hadn’t been arranged prior to the Airport Consultative Committee meeting, but it is hoped that this process will resume moving forward.

AA confirmed that the air and water quality continues to be within normal legal limits.

The business is continuing to increase recycling rates, and a specific project to look at aircraft cabin waste recycling is ongoing.

The Airport’s current recycling rate is 38.4%, with a target of 40% for 2024.

A plan to extend the long stay car park by 2,200 spaces is underway.

To date the company has planted 43,567 trees on Airport land, 17,000 more than the original target. The Airport is working with the North East Community Forest to identify additional pieces of land that could be used to increase biodiversity.

AA confirmed that the trees that have been planted have a 30 year management plan in place.

SP asked whether the number of disabled parking bays would be increased with the extension of the long stay car park.

**ACTION:** Airport to look into the usage of the disabled parking bays in conjunction with the car parks and passenger assistance teams.

LD asked if the hedge at Prestwick Road End could be cut back.

**ACTION:** Airport to raise with the Maintenance Manager.

1. **A discussion on the A696 layby issues**

JL confirmed he had been asked by the Woolsington Parish Council to raise the issue of parking in the layby on the A696 with the Committee.

JL explained that on average 20 cars are parked in the layby on the busy A696 road, resulting in an ‘accident waiting to happen.’

The Parish Council would like the layby to remain open, as it provides vital access to nearby open land that residents access, however it would like signage to deter parking.

AE confirmed that the Airport had contacted National Highways, who confirmed they have no powers to police parking in their laybys. The Airport has since contacted the Police who said that they would support but any signage would need to be provided by the Council. Discussions are ongoing.

1. **AOB**

SP asked if a new gate could be installed in the field at the north east corner of the Airport.

**ACTION:** Airport to investigate this.

SP asked if the new 777 and 787 buses to the Airport were being funded by the Airport.

AA confirmed that they are a joint venture between the Airport and the North East Combined Authority.

SP asked if there are any further discussions about new bus routes, if the 42A that used to operate through Dinnington to the Airport could be reinstated.

RD asked if the use of drones was going to have an effect on the light aircraft users in the region.

**ACTION:** Airport to confirm if the Northumbria Healthcare Trust drone trial will have any impact on light aircraft users.

**8. Date of next meeting**

The Chair informed the members the next meeting would be held on **Tuesday 10th September at 10:00.**