**Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee**

**Noise Sub Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**22nd August 2023**

**Present Representing**

David Haley (DH) Chair

John Littleton (JL) Woolsington Parish Council (Deputy Chair)

Cllr Eric Mackinlay (EM) Brunswick Village Parish Council

Cllr Stephen Phelps (SP) Dinnington Parish Council

Rodger Haydon (RH) Aircraft Noise Action Group (ANAG)

Cllr Alan Turnbull (AT) Heddon Parish Council

Martin Brown (MB) North Tyneside Council

Molly Black (MB) Newcastle City Council

Joy Swithenbank (JS) Sunderland City Council

Gary Park (GP) Northumberland City Council

**For Newcastle International Airport (NIAL)**

Graeme Mason (GM) Chief Sustainability and Communications Officer

Alan Davies (AD) Head of Air Traffic Services

Jayne Oswald (JS) Environmental and Sustainability Advisor

Chloe Thompson (CT) Environmental and Sustainability Assistant

**1. Introduction and Welcome**

DH welcomed the members and thanked them, for their attendance.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Fiona Raje Consumer Representative

**3. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

DH asked the Committee if they all agreed with the minutes presented from the last meeting held. There was no contest.

**4. Chair’s Business**

DH informed that he had no business to discuss.

**5. Secretariat Business**

JO informed that she also had no business to report to the Committee.

**6. Noise Complaints Analysis Summary (including ANAG Data)**

JO provided a presentation on noise complaints received up until the period of July 31st 2023. Prior to the meeting, RH shared data with JO that was collected through the Aircraft Noise Action Group’s (ANAG) online noise compliant form. A comparison of noise complaints received by the Airport and through the ANAG form was included in the presentation.

JO explained that there was an unusually high number of departures to the east during the month of June and this could account for the lower number of complaints received in June compared to the previous year. JO informed the committee that they recently attended a meeting with a resident and Councillor from Cramlington regarding easterly departures and it was agreed upon that NIAL will investigate installing a noise monitor in Cramlington along the easterly departure flight path. GM informed the committee that there was a recent news article published by the Chronicle investigating attitudes towards living under a flight path in Hazelrigg and it was overall showed positive perceptions.

RH informed the committee that ANAG is now using a website to calculate the distance of postcodes of noise complaints in relation to the Airport in place of complainants providing the data on the form. RH has shared the new postcode distance data with JO to circulate. RH gave the committee a brief through the ANAG data presented in the presentation and highlighted the potential physical and mental impacts that aircraft noise can have on complainants. DH commented that the options of responses available for the question; ‘How did the noise affect you?’ on the form are all negative in impact and leading. RH agreed to look at some other options to include for this question on the ANAG form. DH asked RH to see a report of the comments left in the freeform comment box on the ANAG form.

***ACTION:***

* ***JO to circulate the Chronicle article reporting on attitudes to aircraft noise in Hazelrigg.***
* ***JO to circulate the presentation slides.***
* ***RH to compile the responses left in the ANAG form comment box to share with the committee.***
* ***JO to circulate the ANAG noise complaints report with the updated data with the minutes of the meeting.***

**7. Noise Action Plan – Feedback and Comments**

JO reiterated the purpose of the Noise Action Plan (NAP) and informed the committee of the upcoming deadline for final amendments and its submission. JO listed through the actions within the NAP and highlighted the newly incorporated ones. RH gave an overview of the comments ANAG submitted in response the NAP draft, concluding that ANAG believes the NAP is not fit for purpose. DH highlighted that the NAP cannot solve all issues surrounding aircraft noise but when implemented in line with the regulations and collaboration with local communities it is an important tool for noise mitigation.

RH raised the issue of the Standard Instrument Departure (SID) routes and their impact of concentrated aircraft noise for communities situated under them. GM explained that the purpose of the NAP is not to review or change airspace.

The final version of the NAP that will be submitted to Defra will be circulated to members.

JO presented a presentation slide showing the current locations of nose monitors within local communities and the locations of potential new ones in Cramlington and Clara Vale. RH informed that since the last meeting, he had contact with the Chair of the Clara Vale Village Hall to agree upon installing a noise monitor at the Clara vale Village Hall, but no response has been received yet.

***ACTIONS:***

* ***JO to circulate the final version of the NAP submitted to Defra to members.***
* ***RH to provide JO with the email of the chair of Clara Vale Village Hall to discuss the feasibility of installing a noise monitor at the Village Hall.***

**8. Online Noise Complaint Form**

JO gave a presentation showing examples of other airport’s online noise complaints forms and then talked the committee through NIAL’s proposed online noise complaints form. DH suggested signposting resources for complainants to access at the bottom of the form to help them manage stress from aircraft noise and that a privacy policy should also be included at the bottom of the form. RH gave an overview of the ANAG online noise complaints form and highlighted that they recently added an age option to see what demographics of people are most impacted by aircraft noise. JO agreed that the NIAL form could add in the same option as well as a ‘working from home’ option. JO informed the committee that the online complaints form will be shown to the Airport Consultative Committee and to be approved of before being made live online for use.

***ACTIONS:***

* ***JO to investigate adding resources for managing stress induced by aircraft noise on the online complaints form.***
* ***JO to add privacy policy to the end of the online noise complaints form.***
* ***JO to review the option to add an age option to the online form and whether they were working from home when experiencing the aircraft noise.***

**9. Other Airport Updates**

GM informed the committee that the review of the Airport’s masterplan has begun with baseline surveys having been commenced. GM also updated the committee that the planning application for the Fastned Electric Charging Vehicle Forecourt has been submitted. And lastly, GM announced to the committee that JO is leaving the Airport at the end of September and so this is her last meeting. The new appointment of the Environmental and Sustainability Advisor role will most likely be in attendance for the next meeting.

**10. Any Other Business**

RH reiterated that a printer friendly version of the final NAP should be published alongside the regular presentation of the document. RH also reiterated that ANAG would like to see the report of the feasibility study conducted in 2018 on a respite route of GIRLI 3X. GM informed that due to the Airport’s Board decision, the report cannot be shared but a verbal explanation of the contents of the report was provided, citing increased fuel use from a longer route and a higher number of households being impacted by noise.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

*Tuesday 21st November 2023, at 10am.*