MINUTES OF THE LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT COMMUNITY NOISE FORUM ON THURSDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 11:00HRS

PRESENT

Jeremy Pilgrim (Chair) (JP)
Glyn Jones (LSA) (GJ)
Jo Marchetti (LSA) (JM)
Nicole Park (LSA) (NP)
Ray Evans (Leigh Residents Association) (RE)
Joanna Spencer (SSO) (JS)
David Cottis – substitute (SS4) (DC)
Robin Monaghan (Anderson Acoustics)
Mandy Johnson (SS5) (MJ)
Mike Steptoe (ECC) (MS)
Ian Green (DfT) (IG)
Peter Rafano (Envirosuite) (PR)
Kris Barnard (Envirosuite)

APOLOGIES

Sally Holland (Chalkwell Ward Residents Association) (SH) Cllr Julie Gooding (RDC) (JG) Richard Allen (SS9) (RA) Kevin Salt (SS4) (KS) Michael Dyer (Burges Estate Residents Association) (MD) John Bailey (SS2)

RESIGNED

Anna Waite (SS3) Ian Copland (SS6)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIR

Chair introduced Linda Hull as CEO's new PA who will attend future meetings for minute taking.

Chair acknowledges that Glyn will be leaving LSA and thanked him for his support.

Glyn confirmed that John Upton is not commencing employment until 12th September and that he will be staying for a handover. Glyn stated that there is more to do with the committee and thanked those that have attended.

JM confirmed that one of the outstanding issues, which is with the contact details being updated, was still on hold as she had not received all the email addresses required. Chair requests that one final attempt be made to engage with those outstanding, with removal being the outcome if they have not provided a relevant email address within the time given. All forum members agreed.

Going forward, it will be a requirement that a member submits an email address.

Action – Chair to send final email, confirming that if a response has not been received from the outstanding members by 14th September, they will be removed from the forum.

Action – Chair to send responses to be added to emails.

JM to update for all.

Action – Chair to send Auto Response for emails from SS4 Resident.

Chair noted that a request had been made for Counsellors to join the meetings, but all members agreed that it was not a political forum and should only be used for local community. Note they cannot also be a member of Airport Consultative Committee (ACC). The forum was reminded that CCLR Steptoe is acting in his Officer role for Essex County Council (ECC).

JM Confirmed that there are member vacancies in five postcode areas. SS1, SS3, SS6, SS7 and SS8. The airport will continue to advertise vacancies on the LSA website and social media channels.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Chair confirmed that there were no outstanding items, all actions were completed. Minutes agreed by members. LSA website to be updated accordingly.

3. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

MS asked how members communicate within their postcode areas. Facebook and other Social Media platforms were discussed. Suggestion that each residence member becomes an admin of any agreed social media format in order that this is not too onerous for any one person.

PR stated that it must be made clear that this is not a methodology for complaints. All complaints must be directed through the correct channel i.e., WebTrak or LSA Noise Manager

Action – Chair to look at various platforms and feedback.

4. AIRPORT UPDATE BY GLYN JONES

GJ stated LSA had 3500 passengers per month to approx. 18 October and that aircraft movements were down approx. one third.

The number of private jet operations has improved, and will likely see end of year figures at 1200 movements

GJ stated that movements across Europe were seeing an 87% capacity although unsure how long that will last due to pressures on economy fuel prices, inflation etc.

Three airlines have recently tested the market with LSA by transferring cancelled flights at other London airports to Southend.

Challenges remain in the labour market since pandemic/Brexit. Wages have increased, especially in hospitability with some businesses paying substantially higher.

GJ confirmed that the Global Logistics customer would terminate their operation at LSA in September. The reason behind this is strategic as they will be transferring the operation to road haulage.

A consequence of this is that 72 people have been advised that their job is at risk.

Gyn is discussing the matter directly with local MP's. LSA provided a great cargo operation and would be open to talking to other logistics companies in the future and try to replace the job roles that had been lost.

12 of the 72 work directly for LSA, with the rest working for a handling company. LSA will try and redeploy where possible.

John Upton joins the airport as the new CEO on 12 September. Glyn will remain available for support in the short term. John has a background in catering and held a senior position in Leon restaurants and NO. 1 Lounges. He is a very experienced leader, specialising in business growth.

Work continues with the airport's charity partner, SECE MIND. The Wellbeing Garden was opened successfully and LSA will continue to support the site through staff volunteering opportunities. SECE Mind report that the space is being used for 1:1 therapy sessions and residents are growing and cooking their own vegetables and herb.

LSA continue to have several apprentices and are involved in numerous outreach education projects. LSA are also involved in South Essex Technical projects, which will look to set up for roles in aviation.

Despite budget constraints, the airport has focused on improving staff areas e.g., providing new gym facilities for the fire teams, improvements to the validation point, new rest areas and encouraging staff to keep fit through a Let's Stay Active campaign.

GJ expressed his thanks to the forum for their commitment over the past year in getting the forum up and running and being willing to engage on noise matters.

Questions raised

 Chair asked, with Gatwick and Heathrow refusing fights, why could EasyJet not put aircraft at LSA.

GJ explained that a big operational, as well as commitment, would be needed to reintroduce their base to Southend and that doing it very quickly is a challenge for any airline.

- MS asked if there has there been an increase in coastguard and military flights? NP confirmed no increased commitments but sometimes activity does increase especially as Southend Airport is close to the coast/Channel.
- MS asked about the planning position for new hotel. GJ confirmed he had spoken to Hilton recently. LSA is reviewing with Carlyle going forward but have no update at present.

5. **Annual Report**

The LSA Annual Report 2021-22 had been shared with forum members prior to the meeting and comments were invited on the noise section of the report.

AJ commented that noise complaint figures do not represent the community feeling about light aircraft noise. JM confirmed that the Annual Report is based on actual data from complaints received and would be happy to look at any evidence which supports this view/comment.

AJ also felt that it was difficult/pointless submitting noise complaints on WebTrak. Chair referred AJ back to previous meetings where WebTrak had been discussed in detail. KS had previously met with Envirosuite, and members approved the revised auto-response. MS agreed that residents should be directed to WebTrak and encouraged to make complaints so that the data reported represented a true picture of any noise issues.

6. Gate analysis on light aircraft departures presentation – Peter Rafano Please see link below:

Eastwood Gate Analysis:

Points to be considered alongside presentation:

- Gate shown is 3-dimensional grid which only captures aircraft tracks that have flown through it
- Model used has been borrowed from another airport with a different Altitude Above Mean Sea Level (ASML) therefore all heights shown need to be +300ft
- Grids have captured arrivals and departures for all aircraft types
- Bottom axis starts at 300ft AMSL

The presentation shows how the dispersion of aircraft has increased from January 2019 to June 2020.

This presentation was provided in response to questions raised by JS in the previous forum. JS stated that people in SSO working from home are disturbed by light aircraft during the day. PR offered for JS to raise any questions to him once she has digested the results.

7. Presentation on Noise Metrics – Robin Monaghan (Anderson Acoustics) Presentation link below

An Introduction to Noise Metrics

In response to a request from the forum to provide an understanding of how noise is measured, RM talked through a detailed presentation on the following topics:

- Noise metrics and better understanding what they are, why they are used and what they mean
- Non-acoustic factors
- Community noise reporting examples

8. Noise complaint data - Jo Marchetti

JM talked through the noise complaint data (May - July 22) which was shared with the members prior to the meeting.

MS asked if the top 20 complainers from SS9 were all from separate households? Four complainants were from one SS9 address.

9. **Questions from members**

Further discussions on light aircraft activity.

 DC asked if light aircraft taking off over Rochford could be re-routed towards the sea.

DC had not been present at previous forum meetings. NP provided a re-cap of previous explanations as to how light aircraft are required to operate for training and circuit operations. It was not possible to route aircraft out to sea without significant flight path amendments and even, if possible, would not avoid overflying any residents.

IG reiterated that any plans to change the flight paths around Southend would involve extensive consultation and process which may or may not be agreed by the CAA.

The Chair declared that the subject of light aircraft specifically around Hockley had been extensively discussed at every forum meeting over the past year, and that a point had been reached whereby it was clear that light aircraft could not be removed from Hockley. As already discussed, where possible, flights would be varied and dispersed to reduce any impact in that area but due to current CAA legislation, existing airspace constraints and the airports agreed operating controls, pilots may operate circuits flights over Hockley. Again, the forum was advised that light aircraft over Hockley may be above 500ft but below 1000ft (to avoid overhead air traffic) and that aircraft operating a take-off or landing manoeuvre (as when circuiting) may be lower than 500ft. For further information please refer to the previous minutes of the noise forum.

It was also confirmed that it was not possible to move circuits to non-residential areas of Hockley without them overflying other residents to get there.

Discussion on light aircraft operating over Hockley will now be curtailed to allow other members time to raise noise matters in their areas.

Action: The Chair will seek an alternative way to address this matter with the SS5 representative outside of the noise forum.

10. **AOB**

IG from the DfT suggested that forum members may find the following papers of interest:

Flightpath to the Future

Jet Zero Strategy

11. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 9th November 2022

The meeting closed at 14:00

Summary of actions

Actions	Action	Action Owner	Action Assigned	To be actioned by
1	Action – Chair to send final email, confirming that if a response has not been received from the outstanding members by 14 th September, they will be removed from the forum. JM to update for all.	JP	01/09/22	14/09/22
2	Action – Chair to send responses to be added to emails.	JP	01/09/22	01/10/22
3	Action - JM to update for all.	JM	01/09/22	01/09/22
4	Action – Chair to send Auto Response for emails from SS4 Resident.	PF	01/09/22	01/09/22
5	Action – Chair to look at various platforms for community engagement and feedback.	JP	01/09/22	01/09/22