

# LSA Community Noise Forum (LSACNF)

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 14:00 – 15:00

held at the London Southend Jet Centre

### Present

LSA CEO	John Upton (JU)
LSA Noise Manager	Jo Marchetti (JM)
LSA SATCO	Nicole Park (NP)
LSA minute taking	Linda Hull (LH)
Leigh Residents Association	Ray Evans (RE)
SS0 member	Joanna Spencer (JS)
SS4 member	Kevin Salt
SS5 member	Mandy Johnson
Dept of Transport (DfT)	Ian Green (IG)
ECC	Mike Steptoe (MS)
RDC	Cllr Julie Gooding (JG)

### Apologies

SS2 member	John Bailey (JB)
Envirosuite (WebTrak)	Kris Barnard (KB)

### Noise Forum Chair

All forum members had received an email dated 14/02/23 informing them that Jeremy Pilgrim had resigned as Chair of the Community Noise Forum due to his current work commitments and for personal health reasons. The airport acknowledged Jeremy's commitment to the forum since its inception in November 2021 and noted thanks for his contribution over the past 15 months. Jeremy's departure provides an opportunity to bring new thinking to the forum, whilst continuing the review of the LSACNF Terms of Reference. The airport will advertise the position in the coming weeks via LinkedIn and go through a formal process of selecting a new independent Chair. The 15/02/23 meeting took place without a Chair and was hosted as a more informal meeting to progress the Terms of Reference review.

### Airport Update

JU confirmed that flights will start back on 29 March. easyJet has added Amsterdam to their Summer 2022 schedule starting in May. This is a very positive commitment despite the Dutch government following a European procedure for downsizing Schiphol by approx.10%.

LSA are in active dialogue to increase further routes with easyJet, and is continuing dialogue with multiple airlines for later this year and next year.

A temporary cargo contract is operating Jan-Mar 23 with 3x night movements a week. The airport has provided electric Ground Power Units (GPUs) to reduce aircraft ground noise, specifically for the cargo operation. Ju commented that this was a good example of LSA listened to feedback from residents and providing a positive solution.

JU confirmed that 2022 had been the third busiest in terms of aircraft movements on record – largely due to the increase in light aircraft movements. JU added that this ensured the training for ATC staff is kept up to date.

The airport is currently advertising for several job vacancies and has received a great response, showing a clear interest in local people wanting a career at the airport.

MS asked if 80% of LSA staff still live within SS postcodes, with JM confirming the data will be recaptured at the end of March 23 and included in the 2022-23 annual report.

MS queried whether the news that Manston Airport was reopening was true? NP confirmed that they are looking at regeneration and hope to be operational later in this decade, but they require significant investment as all airport buildings, equipment and facilities would need reinstating. She added that current plans are for it to be cargo only.

### **Noise Data**

Noise complaint data was sent to the members prior to the meeting, it was noted that noise complaints have dropped considerably. MS raised a question re the complaints data % figures and asked for clarification - JM to pick up after meeting. No other questions were raised.

### **Terms of Reference (ToR)**

Open discussion took place to progress the review of the ToR with suggestions on how to improve membership, attendance, and engagement with the local community on noise matters.

JM said there is a need to ensure that the people on the forum are attending regularly and sharing information to their community area/represented residents.

MS said sharing minutes isn't always best way to update the community as many residents don't read them. MS suggested a 'press release' may be better. Just key headlines.

A discussion took place regarding a way forward, it was agreed that a noise forum template could be shared by LSA after each meeting for others to amend and share.

JU asked if there should be a dedicated Noise Forum Facebook page? Further discussion followed including moving towards group representation rather than by postcode area. Members agreed that SS postcode member vacancies should not be replaced, and the forum should move to include more community groups and parish councils rather than SS postcode members. Discussion on whether members that did not attend regularly should be removed.

JM asked if members would want to invite individuals, that they represent, to attend a one-off meeting to raise a specific noise matter? JG though this was helpful as she is often asked questions about the airport. However, JG was concerned that emotive individuals could become aggressive.

JM confirmed that the code of conduct will be updated as part of this review and any aggressive or rude behaviour would not be tolerated. JU confirmed that this extended to virtual communications as well. The forum must remain constructive, and all members must be treated respectfully.

KS stated that he had been very impressed at the initial forum meetings and that it had not felt divided between anti/pro-airport opinions. KS felt strongly that this should continue and references to pro/anti-airport should be avoided.

Discussion followed regarding Parish Counsellors and their memberships, with the majority stating that they would be happy to have Parish Counsellors and Community Group Representatives. KS raised concern that the forum should not become political. IG confirmed that at Gatwick it has not become political with the inclusion of Parish Counsellors, although it has slightly at Heathrow.

JM recapped -

- Members agreed to add more community groups/parish councils.
- A period of review for membership may be introduced.
- Possibility of individual members or may be invited as guests.

In the absence of a CNF Chair, JM will continue to communicate with the other airport noise forums and further with Ian Greene to obtain feedback and help draft the new ToR.

JM will email an updated DRAFT ToR to members containing the points discussed for their feedback and comments.

JM invited members to contact her after the meeting with any comments/suggestions on the meeting agenda that could be added to the DRAFT ToR for discussion.

The intention is to continuing working on a draft ToR which can be taken forward by the new Chair once recruited. To maintain the independent purpose of the forum, the draft ToR will not be formally agreed until such a time as the new Chair has reviewed and agreed the draft ToR with the forum.

### **AOB**

AJ asked if the expansion of airspace will reduce noise for Hockley residents.

NP stated that expansion is a fixed, portion over the estuary (70% is over water) and will be unlikely to change current light aircraft training circuits.

JS showed a video of small aircraft going over and explained that she felt that this happened daily/nightly and asked for assistance with communications to residents.

Since the reduction in passenger flights, light aircraft activity has significantly increased. Both SS2 and SS5 members have previously raised the issue of disturbance from light aircraft and claimed that the number of people disturbed is not reflected by the number of noise complaints. NP stated that the level of light aircraft activity is not likely to change until there is a significant increase in passenger traffic. As discussed in previous meetings, the airport is obligated by the CAA to offer training facilities, which is also helpful in keeping the airport ATC staff current.

KS said that the update he had received on the noise metric report had been really helpful. He asked if there was information /historical data on LMAX.

JM agreed to check previous noise reports. KS agreed to follow this up directly with JM after the meeting.

AJ asked who monitors the environmental action plan. JU explained that this is currently under review, and that consultants have been commissioned as we are working towards Net Zero. The airlines are also working towards the same goal.

JU stated as a final point that we need to review the frequency of the meeting.

### **Date of next meeting**

JM advised that the date of the next meeting would be set once a new independent Chair had been appointed. Until then, the ToR review would be progressed with members via email updates and any noise issues should be brought the attention of the airport via email to

[LSA.NoiseManager@southendairport.com](mailto:LSA.NoiseManager@southendairport.com)

Meeting closed at 1510.