

**MINUTES OF LSA COMMUNITY NOISE FORUM  
HELD AT LONDON SOUTHEND JET CENTRE  
ON MONDAY 28 APRIL 2026 AT 14:30**

**Present**

CNF Chair	Vicki Hughes (VH)
LSA Noise Manager	Jo Marchetti (JM)
Community member	Joanna Spencer (JS)
Rochford Parish Councillor	Graham Whitehead (GW)
Essex County Council/ Airport Consultative Committee	James Cottis (JC)
Jewish Community representative	Mike Steptoe (MS)
Local resident	Howard Miller (HM)
Community member	Dr Vaughan Chopping (VC)
Sanctuary House	Kevin Salt (KS)
	Roger Dowell (RD)

**Apologies**

Chalkwell Ward Resident Group	Sally Holland (JVS)
RDC	Cllr Julie Gooding (JG)

**Resigned**

Community member	Amanda Johnson (AJ)
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PART 1 (14.00 – 14.30)		Action
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome from CNF Chair for those not present at previous meeting</li> <li>• Re-introductions from the Chair – giving background in aviation, sustainability and airspace consultancy. Currently Airport Manager at Shoreham Airport.</li> </ul>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence/ Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>Resignation – Amanda Johnston due to ill health. Members noted Amanda’s contributions to the forum since its inception and agreed that she would be welcomed back in the future, if she wished to return.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the previous meeting 26/01/26, outstanding actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KS did not attend the meeting held 26/01/26, but gave the following feedback; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Third bullet point should read south westerly not south easterly for prevailing wind at Southend. <i>Minutes corrected and will be updated on website.</i></li> <li>○ Regarding membership, KS stated that he would rather the forum not be “polarized by politics and that councilor members should be restricted”. The Chair confirmed that this discussion was about engaging with more residents through elected representatives, and community groups around the airport. It was agreed that Parish and Town councilors could be A-political and are welcome to apply. Cllr Steptoe agreed that Parish councilors would be the most likely place people go to enquire about noise. <i>No change to previous minutes.</i></li> <li>○ Under Community Input section, KS commented that ‘imported noise’ from non-based flying schools should have been included. JM informed KS that the meeting with Seawing was a specific request from VC and AJ. The Chair also pointed out that ‘imported noise’ was an interesting description for a</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Closed</p> <p>Ongoing membership discussions</p>

	<p>noise effect, as noise is not more or less affective whether it is from those based or non-based aircraft.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>No change to previous minutes.</i></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● JS to contact SCC regarding consultation process for S106 Plan review. <i>Update - JS emailed Cllr Cowan and Cllr Hyde but did not receive a reply.</i></li> <li>● MS to provide contact details for Parish and Town councils regarding membership – take forward to Rochford hundred – <i>Update: MS will follow up, as he was not present at the last Rochford Hundred meeting. MS asked if the Chair would be happy to attend a Rochford Hundred meeting to talk about the forum. The Chair agreed, subject to dates availability and scope.</i></li> <li>● JM to advertise CNF on LinkedIn – <i>actioned</i></li> <li>● GW to contact anti-airport group regarding membership – <i>GW reported that SAGE (anti-airport group) were no longer active.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Light aircraft circuits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● KS comments about imported noise from non-based flying schools triggered a non-tabled discussion about light aircraft. Both KS and VC expressed their dissatisfaction that all previous discussions had not led to any tangible changes or improvements and that light aircraft activity was still causing them disturbance.</li> <li>● The Chair reassured KS that her previous comment to move the CNF conversation to other noise matters was not meant to disregard or cease this topic, but that it had taken up much of forum time over the past few years and had led to a member leaving. KS felt strongly that the light aircraft circuits remained a focused topic and that change would not come about if he did not continue to complain. The Chair agreed to discuss new concerns as they arise.</li> <li>● JM added that KS had attended the Control Tower to learn more about how ATC manages the General Aviation (GA) aircraft and that comprehensive information had been provided by way of presentations and explanations. It is difficult for the airport and ATC to know what else can be done, apart from proactive monitoring and ongoing communications with the GA community.</li> <li>● JS asked if LSA could raise the fee for GA training to discourage them from using LSA. KS supported this idea. JM reiterated Southend ATC must provide GA with a service and that it is essential for pilots to train at different airfields. If cost was the only factor, it still wouldn't make commercial sense to outprice LSA from the GA market. KS insisted that it was therefore just about making money.</li> <li>● <b>Action:</b> JM to talk to the airport commercial team to seek clarity on airport pricing and commercial principles.</li> <li>● JM confirmed to MS that GA activity could reduce as the airport got busier, however it would take some time before there was a significant decrease. The airport does not wish to actively exclude aviation communities. There is a need to train pilots in many different scenarios, for Southend Airport this means Instrument Landing Systems, controlled airspace, terminal maneuvering areas and multiple airspace height levels. The Chair explained that Airspace Modernisation consultation has provision for the GA community to be consulted and considered in airspace designs.</li> </ul>	<p>Closed</p> <p>Closed</p> <p>Closed</p> <p>Closed</p> <p>JM</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Membership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No new members proposed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ GW to add CNF information to the Roundabout Rochford magazine</li> <li>○ Ongoing discussions to proactively find new members</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Airport Update (Jan - Mar) – Jo Marchetti</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Last year (Jan – Dec 2025) saw a tripling of volume to 719,500 passengers and a 133% increase in flights, making LSA the UK's fastest growing airport in 2025. We expect that 2026 will see LSA grow by another 30% to 933,000 passengers.</li> <li>● easyJet currently have 23 summer destinations on sale, including new routes to Ibiza, Jersey, Munich with Barcelona now being extended into the Winter schedule – 27 in total.</li> </ul>	

- Average load factor across all routes for the three-month period Jan – Mar was 68% (this includes less busy routes over the winter schedule).
- Best performing routes in Jan, Feb, Mar were Rovaniemi (85%), Malaga (76%), Tenerife (76%), Alicante (76%) & Antalya (75%).
- Airlines continue to monitor schedules since the war in Iran. easyJet have repositioned Marrakesh to Gatwick through June to consolidate passengers onto one aircraft to save fuel. Further schedule changes could be required if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed – all airports/airlines may be affected not just Southend.
- Following on from the success of last year, the 2026 Travel Show was hosted at the Holiday Inn Hotel on 25 January. The event attracted over 250 would-be passengers.
- 2L liquid allowance formally announced. Passengers can leave liquids (up to 2L and electrical equipment (laptops, tablets etc) inside their hand luggage for screening.
- New Express drop-off and pick-up lane opened 1st March allowing passengers to be picked up or dropped off directly opposite the main terminal. The new layout has been designed to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion and create a smoother experience for drivers and passengers alike.
- Contactless ticketing went live at Southend Airport rail station in March.
- First announced that the X30 service would be withdrawn from Eastwoodbury Lane in April but have since proposed maintaining a service for the early and late flights.
- The latest CAA 2025 statistics show that the airport delivered the most significant improvement in on-time performance across the UK, rising 15 places in the national punctuality league while also becoming the most punctual airport in London, with 77.6% of flights departing or arriving within 15 minutes of schedule.

#### Employment

- LSA has 10 roles live – the bulk being F&B. ATC, we keep the Air Traffic Controller advert live all year round, and we have just re opened our Air Traffic Control Assistant role, but this one is to build a talent pool only, we do not currently have an active vacancy. We are also hiring a cleaning specialist.
- Since January 2026 55 new colleagues have been successfully onboarded across the business – mostly for Food & Beverage and Security, as vast majority of these recruits were FTC, due to expire on 30/09/2026 or 31/10/2026, total headcount is 381 as of 28/04/2026
- 85.2% of airport colleagues currently live in an SS postcode area.
- LSA held a Wellbeing event for all colleagues to meet with benefit, sustainable travel and financial advisors.
- Our Director of People attended a careers event at Southend Job Centre on 4th April.
- LSA colleagues were offered Stress and Wellbeing training in relation to stress awareness month with Wellity Global.

#### Airspace

- The CAA has now completed the Stage 2 ‘Develop & Assess’ Gateway Assessment and is satisfied that London Southend Airport FASI (ACP-2018-90) has met the requirements of the process up to this point. The CAA approves progress to Stage 3 ‘Consult’.
- Further information on LSA’s ACP can be found here [Airspace change proposal public view \(caa.co.uk\)](#)
- LSA will now seek to begin work on Stage 3. Further information will be made available on our website as we progress through stage 3 [FASI South - London Southend Airport](#).

#### Community Impact

- 2026 sponsorship events:
  - Essex Cricket Club – Essex Women’s team
  - SUFC – Draw her into the game
  - Havens Hospice Southend half marathon
  - Lazydays festival
  - LSA v’s Run Free Utd at SUFC
  - Rochford Parish Council – Festive lights
  - SECE Mind – Mental Elf run.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>London Southend Airport began a charity partnership with South East and Central Essex Mind (SECE Mind) in July 2021. Due to the success of relationship benefitting both the community and airport colleagues, the partnership was extended through to December 2025, raising more than £50,000 in funds and awareness for mental health support across the region.</li> <li>In January, the airport invited application for its next charity partner. After receiving an overwhelming number of applications, a shortlist of five charities was presented to airport colleagues, who were invited to vote for their preferred partner. Havens Hospices, which provides specialist care and support for people of all ages living with incurable conditions across Essex, was selected as our new charity partner for 2026-2028.</li> <li>Over Christmas, unclaimed 20 buggies were donated to The Shoebury Ark and 65 unclaimed cabin bags went to HARP homeless charity.</li> <li>LSA is once again took part in the Shoebox appeal - The annual '<a href="#">Shoebox Appeal</a>', led by the Samaritan's Purse charity.</li> <li>Total fundraising for Guide Dogs has reached £5023.74.</li> <li>In January 20 Hospitality and Travel students and their tutors from South Essex College (SEC) had a tour around the passenger terminal to get a better understanding of what happen behind the scenes at an airport.</li> </ul> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2025 DEFRA bias adjusted NO2 levels around the airport perimeter range from 12.7 – 19.6 µg/m3 (Government Air Quality Objective is 40 µg/m3)</li> <li>24% of the airport's electricity came from our on-site solar farm.</li> </ul> <p><u>Questions raised</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	
<b>PART 2 (14.30 – 15.30)</b>		
<p><b>6 Community Input</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Members were invited to raise any matters from communities they represent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HM asked if advance notice of late flights could be provided to an elderly lady that lives alone and has no internet/emails or social media? He suggested taking an advert in the local newspaper, it was also suggested that a local radio announcement could be made. JM explained that it takes considerable time to organise this kind of communication and that that airport did not usually get much advance notice of Jet Centre late flights or delayed passenger arrivals. As has been done in the past, notice of any unusual, planned events such as the UEFA flights will be given to the CNF for members to pass information onto the residents they represent.</li> <li>VC reported that his neighbour, had complained about 30 GA circuits over his house in a two-hour period. JM confirmed that she had responded with information and maps showing three separate light aircraft operating training circuits which were compliant with the rules and regulations.</li> <li>VC continued that this was unacceptable and he was also dissatisfied with the airport's response to a complaint he made about light aircraft 'fan-stop' procedures close to his property and requested the Airport's Health &amp; Safety (H&amp;S) Department investigate this. JM explained that the airport's H&amp;S team look after safety on the airfield and ATC are responsible for reporting any unsafe aircraft activity. JM had suggested contacting CAA, however VC said they had not replied to him. <b>Action:</b> The Chair will contact the CAA to ask them to investigate and/or attend a CNF meeting as a guest to discuss the matter. GW suggested VC form a group and take the issue to his local MP and councillors.</li> <li>The Chair raised the subject of recent correspondence from a local community member direct to CNF members. Some members expressed annoyance and that the individual has been offered the opportunity to meet with the previous Chair and other CNF</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Chair</b></p>

	<p>members to discuss his issues but had declined. The Chair said she would extend an offer to meet this individual direct. Action. Chair to write to the local community member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All CNF contact details are published on the LSA website. (AJ has now been removed)</li> <li>• As the resident referred to above is not a Rochford Parish Council resident GW had emailed them today asking them to decrease contact.</li> </ul> <p><b>7 Noise data</b> – (attached to agenda for members)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No questions raised</li> </ul> <p><b>8 S106 and NAP plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identify and agree S106 and NAP plan targets for monitoring. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S106 Operational Plan review – the plans were approved in March, and all new commitments have been implemented. This includes increasing NO2 testing from four sites outside the airport boundary to seven in total – adding three new sites on the airfield close to residential properties.</li> <li>• JM confirmed that there had been no material changes to the documents since members had reviewed them. No comments about the plans were received from the public consultation (only two comments made relating to the SCC consultation process).</li> <li>• Given the short amount of time left of the meeting JM suggested that she should go through the new plans at length next meeting and explain all new commitments, including monitoring Charlie taxiway and idle engine testing.</li> <li>• The Chair agreed to make the S106 Operational Plans an early agenda item for the August meeting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>PART 3 (15.30 – 16.00)</b>		
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discussion on CNF communications Several members agreed to include details from the CNF meetings to be reported on in Parish magazines and/or community correspondence.</li> <li>2. Key messages for the Airport Consultative Committee - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) No current noise issues to report.</li> <li>b) Ongoing ask of Members to proactively find new representatives for the CNF.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MS is happy to share airport information on his social media.</li> <li>• HM enquired about landside café options. The Café would be open more regularly as passenger numbers increase.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>Agree dates of 2026 meetings – all meetings start at 2pm – 4pm</b></p> <p>Monday 24 August Monday 30 November</p>	
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Members suggestions for next meeting Agenda and items for discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None raised</li> </ul>	