

Aviation Report – December 2019

Alan Jones

Introduction

Since my October report I have attended the following Gatwick related meetings:

- 9th October – GACT Meeting
- 11th October – Gatwick Transport Forum
- 17th October – GATCOM (all day)
- 6th November – NATMAG Workshop
- 7th November – NATMAG
- 28th November – GACT rep at East Surrey Funding Fair
- 29th November – ANMAC meeting at DfT
- 3rd December – Joint Airspace & NMB meeting

GACT BUSINESS MEETING – 9th October 2019

This was purely a business meeting to review some of our governance and to determine our plans for the next batch of applications in 2020. We also had a new trustee Raj Sharma who has joined us from Crawley BC.

Applications for grants opened on 1st November and will close on 16th March 2020. Whilst there are always applications for more money than we have to distribute it would be good to receive more applications from Tandridge District and particularly those organisations whose members are affected by the flightpaths. We shall have in excess of £200,000 to distribute next May.

GATWICK TRANSPORT FORUM – 11th October 2019

One of the issues that I continually raise in the different Gatwick forums I attend is that of transport infrastructure so that is the reason I attend these annual meetings of the Transport Forum.

After the usual interview with Stewart Wingate who gave a summary of progress in the past 12 months, we had some questions from the floor ranging from Extinction Rebellion to carbon emissions. GAL answered how they were investing into new technology and how well their re-cycling regime was working on the airport. We were also told about the use of bio-fuel with 5% of it being used by Virgin Atlantic on one of their commercial services.

So far as infrastructure is concerned, the widening of the M23 into a Smart Motorway was hailed but it was not too convincing as it is required now and not for a further 20 million airline passengers in the future.

Another way in which carbon emissions are being reduced is by a staff car sharing scheme in which 113,000 miles per annum is saved.

The chief planning officer, Tim Norwood, gave an update on the current and proposed future trends of the airport. Currently the airport serves 230 global destinations, employs 25,000 staff on site and is responsible for a total of 85,000 jobs across the region. It contributes £5bn to the GDP and in future intends to use the emergency runway (referred in future as the Northern Runway) for departing aircraft and increasing the number of passengers by a further 20 million by 2030. This will generate another 8,000 jobs.

GATCOM (including annual tour) – 17TH OCTOBER 2019

The annual tour commenced during the morning with the main meeting in the afternoon.

The tour concentrated on the baggage handling facility which is fully automated being able to direct the contents to the right destination for loading onto the aircraft. It

utilises the barcodes that are put on the baggage at check-in and, if arriving early for a flight that is not imminent, it is put in a siding to await its calling at a later time.

I attach the Key Messages from the meeting but you may be interested in the presentation by Alison Addy on GAL's Community Engagement Activity showing how much the airport has involved itself in the local community.

Another presentation was on Airspace Updates which includes FASI-S (Future Airspace Strategy Implementation – South) a topic in which I have been involved at focus groups prior to reaching later stages that will include consultation. Another update was on Route 4 which I have mentioned several times before and which is gradually going through the consultation process of CAP 1616 (Airspace Change Process).

Finally, I tabled the NATMAG summary report to the meeting.

6TH AND 7TH NOVEMBER

I was scheduled to attend the two meetings indicated in RED above but was late arriving back from a cruise that was delayed by 3 days due to severe storms in The Atlantic. I therefore have nothing to report on these.

EAST SURREY FUNDING EVENT – 28TH NOVEMBER 2019

Tandridge Voluntary Action (TVA) and Reigate and Banstead Voluntary Action (VARB) held a funding event at Nutfield Lodge and I attended as one of the seven funders and there were a total of 60 people present who were looking for funding some projects. I was kept very busy answering a great number of questions about the trust I was representing (GACT) and all my application forms disappeared very quickly. It was certainly a good place to meet potential fundees and I was encouraging them to apply as we tend to get too few applications for grants from Tandridge.

Applications for grants in 2020 opened at the beginning of November and closes on 16h March 2020 and soon after we have meetings to decide how to distribute the £200,000 plus that has been donated by GAL.

ANMAC MEETING AT DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT – 29TH NOVEMBER 2019

This meeting was mainly a focus meeting to discuss future Night Flights from October 2022. It will be going out to full consultation in the New Year but DfT are searching for the best approach which could be different from the current arrangements.

We also discussed a paper on research into helicopter noise.

AIRSPACE & NOISE MANAGEMENT BOARD PUBLIC MEETING – 3RD DECEMBER 2019

I have previously mentioned to you about the Noise Management Board and how the first three year term ended. It is being re-constituted with a Noise Executive Board (NEX) and a Noise Community Forum (NCF). The chairmen have been appointed and they will start operating from January 2020.

However, NMB annual public meetings have been held in December each year and this has been no exception but it was held in conjunction with an update on Gatwick Airport Airspace. This is a developing issue which includes change to route 4 and FASI-S which I have mentioned earlier.

Following this presentation by Andy Sinclair, the previous NMB chairman gave a summary of the work and achievements during his three years as chairman and bid us farewell.

A quite successful 45 minute Q & A session took place and when the meeting ended, there was an opportunity to look at the various stands and talk to the experts on a variety of topics associated with noise and track keeping and airspace.

Future Meetings

- 19th December 2019 – GATCOM Steering Group
- 23rd January 2020 – GATCOM
- 28th January 2020 – NATMAG Pre-meeting
- 6th February 2020 - NATMAG

Attachments

GATCOM Key Messages October 2019

BPC/Aviation Dec19/