

Aviation Report – February 2020

Alan Jones

Introduction

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

- 19th December 2019 – GATCOM Steering Group
- 23rd January 2020 – GATCOM
- 28th January 2020 – NATMAG Pre-meeting
- 29th January 2020 – FLOPSC meeting
- 6th February 2020 - NATMAG

GATCOM STEERING GROUP – 19TH DECEMBER 2019

I have said before that this meeting is a pre-cursor of the main GATCOM meeting, although we sometimes receive reports that are only reported back to the main meeting. Since our new chairman Tom Crowley was appointed, he and the steering group have been looking at the structure of GATCOM and there was a report back at this meeting. Membership structure was discussed and was generally thought to be a satisfactory mix. One suggestion was that the GATCOM message should be spread more widely, particularly at parish Council level. Certainly, I have been keeping Outwood informed through my attendance from time to time and have worked along with Ian Frow there who is a retired British Airways captain. I am happy to spread the word more widely with other adjacent parishes like Horne (which I did when I was a District Councillor). It was suggested that the membership should increase by one with that seat going to the new chairman of the NMB (NEX). It was also recommended that an annual work programme should be produced and progress reviewed each year.

GATCOM – 23RD JANUARY 2020

Major issues discussed at this meeting were:

GAL Chief Executive Report

- 20% passengers now travelling long haul
- The £150m investment in the rail station is now under way
- In long stay car park, robotic parking will be starting in February
- Easyjet bought many of the Thomas Cook timeslots
- 62,900 traffic movements over the 3 months ending December
- 10.3m passengers through the airport over the same 3 months

GAL's Plan for Growth

Following the issue of the DCO Scoping document which I described in a previous report, GAL has to move onto the next phase of consultation. They now have to determine who, why, where and how for the Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC). When the Gatwick Master plan was out for consultation last year there was much disquiet around the choice of locations for presentation to the public. (E.g. 5 locations were chosen with the only one being in Surrey at that was in Croydon. Later, Horley was added after expressions of annoyance. GAL has promised to be more sensitive to their choice of location this time around. They also intend to ensure that they reach a greater representation of the people affected by the

northern runway use. The consultation period will be for 28 days to the Local Authorities and an opportunity for the general public to respond.

Rail Station Update

As stated above, £150m is being invested in the Gatwick station – a situation that we have argued endlessly for years. GAL is subscribing £40m towards the cost. There will be a disruption to the train timetable so a new one will be issued. With 2 platforms closed for work there will be somewhat cramped operating conditions. Gatwick Express will be reduced to 2 per hour and terminating at Brighton. Completion of the work is not expected until 2023.

NMB Update

A brief update was given on the next term for the Noise Management Board and the new chairmen were introduced. The Executive Board Chairman is Jonathan Drew and the Chairman of the NMB Community Forum is Warren Morgan.

The first meeting of the Community Forum took place on 30th January which was a gathering of community groups to determine membership since they wish the new arrangement to be more inclusive than during the first term. As I am currently lead Member for Noise, Jonathan Drew is hoping to arrange a meeting with me fairly soon.

Airspace Update

We are having regular updates on FASI-S (Future Airspace Implementation – South). Although changes to the way airspace will be used in the future will not actually happen until 2022-23 there is a huge amount of work that has to be done in the meantime to bring it to fruition as 18 airports in the southern part of England will be affected.

Route 4 is going through an airspace change procedure following the Judicial Review of 2018 which concluded that the NPR should revert to its 2013 conventional route. This is easier said than done as many of the beacons that were used to fly by have now been dismantled.

NATMAG Report

It normally falls to me to report back to this committee on NATMAG but, as I missed the last meeting when I was delayed arriving home from a cruise, my deputy gave the report.

FLOPSC (FLIGHT OPERATIONS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE) – 29TH JANUARY

I generally attend just one of the six of these meetings each year and other NATMAG members take their turn. It is an interesting forum of professionals from airlines and GAL ground operational staff and is chaired by George Carney from GAL. It covers issues such as flight performance, go-arounds, airfield projects and how this might affect operations and the safety measures that are being put in place. Whilst it is fair to say that some of the items are over my head, it is still possible to make a contribution to the forum. We feel it is important to have this contact from NATMAG as it does help to understand more of what is happening apart from noise issues.

NATMAG MEETING – 6TH FEBRUARY 2020

Report submitted before this meeting took place.

Future Meetings

- 26th March 2020 – GATCOM Steering Group
- 23rd April 2020 – GATCOM
- 24th April 2020 - GACT
- 28th April 2020 – NATMAG Pre-meeting
- 7th May 2020 - NATMAG

Attachments

GATCOM Key Messages January 2020

BPC/Aviation Feb20