

Airport Consultative Committee

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WORKING PARTY

27th March 2024 @ 10.00 hours,

Meeting held at Lulsgate House and virtually using Microsoft Teams

AGREED Minutes of the Meeting

Present:

David Hall, Chairman

Hannah Pollard, Head of Sustainability, Bristol Airport (HP)

Whitney Love, Sustainability Officer

Daniel Samson, Sustainability and Social Value, Bristol Airport

Laurie Vaughn - Wrington Parish Council (LV)

Hilary Burn, Cleeve Parish Council (HB)

Gill Patch, Winford Parish Council (GP)

Joachim Steinback, PCAA

Matthew Johns, Consultant

Alicia Fox- secretary

Chloe Dixon, Environmental Protection, North Somerset Council

Carl Smallwood, Environmental Protection, North Somerset Council

Apologies for absence

Dee Mawn, North Somerset Council (RA)

Lindsay Howe North Somerset Council (RA)

- **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th December 2023**

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

- **Matters arising from previous meetings**

HP responded to the matters raised at the last meeting:

-Runway lighting being changed to LED bulbs- HP confirmed that LED bulbs will not make the runway lighter and are regulated by the CAA.

-Why is the Bristol flyer not priced at £2 like other buses?- HP advised the £2 capped fee is a government scheme and does not apply to commercial bus routes.

-HB asked if acoustic glass could be added to the level 3 noise insulation scheme. HP confirmed acoustic glass has now been added to the noise mitigation scheme.

-HB asked if people can now reapply for the acoustic glass, WL confirmed people can reapply.

-GP had raised concerns over the aircraft fuel dumping on 9th December prior to Heathrow landing, Bristol NATS were unaware of the incident as it was not a Bristol flight. NATS at Heathrow have been contacted but have not yet responded, this is being chased up.

DH asked for clarity as to whether the fuel was dropped or burnt off by circling.

HB asked if Ryanair had started using newer aircraft?

HP will check and come back with an answer.

- **Sustainability strategy – Presentation and slides by HP**

HP talked through the slides with the members which will be available on the website.

HB- asked if the Vertical flying program was still continuing?

DS confirmed the program is still going ahead, however there are delays with it. They will keep the committee updated with the progress.

- **Environmental Update- Qtr 1 2024**

Slides on website

WL talked through the slides with the members.

LV- Asked what was stopping all CDA's falling in line, what caused it to be 96%?

WL advised it would normally be the weather but will investigate it and come back to the committee.

Roughly an additional £30,000 has been paid out in noise insulation grants in the last quarter.

LV asked if the airport will be reaching out to the residents who will fall within the criteria?

WL- confirmed that initially they will be advising Parish Councils and putting information on the website. If the uptake in grant applications is low then they will send out letters.

LV was concerned the complaints data was inaccurate as he had put in two noise complaints, and neither had pulled through for Wrington?

WL- advised that LV's complaints had been logged under Bristol due to the postcode.

JP has been encouraging residents to log complaints to the airport regarding the odor as it is causing a lot of issues and upset.

WL the airport are looking into this and are keen to get more details as where the odor is coming from. They are wanting to establish the cause for the odor so any additional information that the residents can provide would be beneficial.

HB highlighted that a lot of the night flights are being moved to the summer months which is why the figures look lower on the reports. It is known the airport wanted an extra 1000 flights and only 300 have been used for the winter which suggests the extra 700 will be moved to the summer.

WL advised that the data provided shows the overall percentages and comparative information.

JP asked if the Felton monitor still being used to provide data as had been told it was not working? WL confirmed there has been data provided from the beginning of March but will double check it is still active.

LV wanted to know if there was a particular location/point at which the aircraft drop their landing gear as it is very noisy and he witnessed an aircraft with its landing gear which seemed quite far out from the airport.

WL will look into this and confirm.

JP will you be producing a new map for Parish Councils with the new contours?

WL yes this is being worked on and can be given out.

- Biodiversity Update- Matthew Johns

MJ provided the committee with slides showing the work which has been taking place at Lulsgate Wood.

The woodland was all mapped on GIS with accurate GPS which allowed the individual trees to be marked, this then enabled the team to establish the required canopy cover in individual 0.5ha areas. In each zone (0.5 hectare) there needs to be a minimum of 20% canopy cover. They have been working with Natural England, Forestry Commission, NSC ecologist, and the Avon Wildlife Trust to ensure they are meeting the requirements and incorporating any additional suggestions.

Most of trees that have been felled were removed from the site, which took place between September and January. Sufficient standing and fallen deadwood and brash was left to ensure good habitat for birds, bats, small mammals and invertebrates. All broadleaved species of trees were retained alongside the young understory, restoring a strong woodland structure that includes diversifying the ground flora.

As part of the plan to enhance the habitats for local wildlife they are creating more bat roosts with dark dry areas. During the project the team came across 2 old mine shafts which they have converted into

safe roosts for the bats and have provided two insulated buildings suitable for nesting for the bats which are pregnant. They have built ladders into the shafts which can be pulled out and checked for droppings. Sensors will be added for data evaluation.

New fencing has been installed and a double gate will be added to connect to Avon Somerset Wildlife Trust land which will allow the cattle to pass through to Lulsgate Wood. The cattle have GPS collars which are funded by Avon Somerset Wildlife Trust. The team are in close contact with Natural England in relation to grazing and the woodland management.

JP asked how deep the mine shafts are?

MJ advised they are between 4-6 meters deep.

HB asked if the public footpath is still open?

MJ- confirmed the pathway is open and has been maintained, they have added some bark chip to improve the ground conditions.

HB asked why the project has been rushed? It was originally planned to take 7 years but it seems to have been rushed through?

MJ confirmed the criteria states it needed to be done within 10 years but it has always been planned the project would be carried out quickly, because of its character (reduction in canopy cover) and demonstrates the replacement habitats can be delivered efficiently.

There will be ongoing monitoring of the habitats and ensure they are being used by the bats as well as other fauna and flora (in this wood and across the airport). The team will be tracking and using infra-red to follow the bats, they are especially keen to learn where the pregnant bats go. They will also be collecting bat droppings and getting DNA analysis carried out to establish the invertebrates the bats are digesting. This will ensure the right sorts of insects are encouraged to the bats feeding areas.

There is further work being carried out to the south of the airport, this includes converting an old air raid shelter into another habitat and carrying reptile surveys. No reptiles have previously been logged but they hope to add some ponds to encourage this.

On the East side of the airport there will be more work taking place to the grassland including scarification and overseeding.

The project is ongoing and further updates will be provided along the way.

HB asked a site visit would be possible.

HP confirmed this is something that can certainly be looked into and arranged at a later date

- **Future topics**

- Q2 Environmental management: how we manage and monitor environmental performance at the airport, including a dive into key topics (groundwater monitoring as an example).

- Q3 Carbon: net zero ops update and scope 3: working with airlines and Aviation Carbon Transition Programme

- Q4: Round up of year and a look ahead.

Other ideas can be sent in to AF

- **Any other business (AOB)**

HB requested that within the Annual Monitoring Report it details the dispensations of night flights like with Stansted and Heathrow.

- **Dates for future Meetings 2023**

TBC

Distribution:

Members of the Environmental Effect Working Party, plus the Airport Consultative Committee.