

Henstridge Airfield Consultative Committee

Wednesday, 25 April 2018
Council Offices, Churchfield, Wincanton

In attendance:

Cllr Nick Weeks (NW) – Chair	Chair of Area East Committee, SSDC
Cllr Hayward Burt (HB)	South Somerset District Council
Cllr William Wallace (WW)	South Somerset District Council
Geoff Jarvis (GJ)	Airfield Owner & Operator
John Howe (JH)	Owners of Resident Aircraft
Dominic Heath-Coleman (DHC)	South Somerset District Council
David Redwood (DR)	Fifehead Magdalen Parish Meeting Chair
David Nichols (DN)	Henstridge Parish Council Chair
Bob Penfold (BP)	Stalbridge Town Council
Huw Williams (HW)	Dorset County Council
Nigel Osborne (NO)	Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna PC Chair
Pam Williams (PW)	SSDC – Note taker

1.	<p>Welcome, Introductions & Apologies:</p> <p>Cllr Nick Weeks welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from: Andrew Nellist (SCC).</p> <p>NW advised that he proposed to change the order for considering agenda items 2 & 3. Attendees were advised that hard copies of the two embedded documents, within the agenda, were available for anyone who had difficulty opening these.</p>
2.	<p>The Role of the Consultative Committee:</p> <p>NW reminded everyone present that this is a liaison group not a decision making body; the Terms of Reference for the Henstridge Airfield Consultative Committee are set out within Section 1 of the Section 106 agreement dated 5 December 2017. In his capacity as Chair of Area East Committee, NW would Chair the first 2 meetings of the Consultative Committee.</p>
3.	<p>Public Questions: None</p>
4.	<p>Report from Airfield Operator:</p> <p>i. Relevant statistics concerning aircraft movements disaggregated into months of the year:</p> <p>These statistics had been provided prior to the meeting and circulated with the agenda and were not discussed in detail at the meeting.</p> <p>DN observed that whilst these responses appeared reasonable, it is difficult to interpret whether this is good or not. He felt it would be helpful to have the information put into context.</p> <p>ii. GJ talked through the narrative in support of the statistics both of which had been circulated ahead of the meeting.</p>

	<p>iii. Whilst not exhaustive, GJ summarised some of the events booked for the period to the next meeting including :</p> <p>18th May 2018 – Scouts 22nd July 2018 – CLIC Sergeant 25th & 26th August 2018 – Wings & Wheels event on</p> <p>He advised that the Wessex STRUT event scheduled for this weekend had been cancelled.</p> <p>iv. Summary of any complaints received since the last meeting:</p> <p>In providing a summary of complaints (details of which had also been circulated, together with comments and action taken, ahead of the meeting) GJ was thanked by BP for his willingness to liaise about matters that were raised.</p> <p>v. A summary of any enforcement action taken and sanctions imposed since the last meeting:</p> <p>In line with information circulated ahead of the meeting, GJ advised that there were 28 perceived overflights reported between November 2016 and May 2017 by one individual. Some were disproved but a follow-up was undertaken of all based pilots and regular visitors, with the request to keep a GPS track of movements. Additionally one pilot had been asked not use the airfield again. This appears to have largely resolved the situation. Further explaining his prepared information GJ advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motor glider use in permissible - Helicopter pleasure flights are permissible - The 'large noisy' aircraft was a divert from Yeovilton as their runway had an emergency closure - The YAK team had exceeded their maximum for aerobic events and they have been advised that this will not happen again
<p>5.</p>	<p>Flights over Noise Abatement Areas:</p> <p>DR drawing on his previous career as a chartered safety adviser, said he was unhappy with overflying of his village not necessarily because of the noise but to remove any risk to people and property in the event of eg: an air accident or forced landin.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Lack of local information on website:</p> <p>In response to a lack of information GJ advised that information about the planning decision is on the Henstridge Airfield website – under 'more information' (this was verified by HW during the meeting). This included the S106 Agreement and agenda for this meeting. The notes of the meeting could also be added. Additionally, all documents are on the SSDC website.</p> <p>DR raised concerns that there appeared to be an inconsistency between the agreement reached at the Area East Committee meeting of 13th July 2016, when 'no helicopter training' was incorporated as part of the decision (voted 7-2 in favour). DHC advised that he had discussed the matter with the former case officer (who has now left SSDC) and he had advised DHC that the condition was omitted from the decision on advice from Counsel and in conjunction with the Area Chair and the ward members, as the condition was considered to be unenforceable.</p> <p><i>DHC subsequently reported: "In regard to item 6, you are entirely correct that what I reported to the committee was just 'hearsay'. Unfortunately, there is no documentary evidence I can find to support the assertions of the previous case officer. I was reporting to the committee the position as I understood it at the time. On further examination, I suspect that the omission of the condition was in fact an administrative error. I will be a position to update the committee more fully at the next meeting. In the meantime we are in discussions with Mr Jarvis in order to resolve the issue."</i></p>

	<p>GJ provided an absolute assurance that there is no helicopter flight training happening/planned but, in line with the approval, helicopter pleasure flights are undertaken.</p> <p>7. Any Other Business:</p> <p>NW queried the position with his voting being a "2nd vote" not a casting vote and asked that clarification from Legal be sought. DHC provided interpretation of this but agreed to get it checked (please see Post Meeting Note 1. below).</p> <p>WW queried when a member of the public could make representations to the meeting. NW confirmed that this would be done at the start of the meeting, at the appropriate point on the agenda but matters for discussion should be advised ahead of the meeting, prior to the agenda being circulated.</p> <p>NW queried community group representation – it was confirmed that there remained a place open for a community organisation to be represented at the meeting (please see Post Meeting Note 2. below).</p> <p>WW voting – asked to clarify the position with regard to his attendance on the basis that he is both a District & County Councillor. SSDC has 2 votes and SCC has one vote.</p> <p>NW advised that 2 items had been raised by Henstridge PC who would like both items included on the agenda for the next HACC meeting (Constitution, Part 1 point 17 – giving at least 30 days' notice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to request that the Chairman of Area East Committee should act as Chairman of the HACC until the first triennial review b) to request that the quorum of all HACC meetings should be 6 members or their duly appointed substitutes <p>It was acknowledged that a quorum of 4 should be reconsidered and GJ suggested that this be increased by a 'gentleman's agreement' pending the group being reconvened in October.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Thursday 11 October 2018 (subsequently changed to 25 October) at 6:00pm in SSDC Council Offices, Churchfield, Wincanton</p>

Post Meeting Notes:

1. Following the meeting Angela Watson, SSDC Legal Services, shared DHC's view about the interpretation of this paragraph and said:

"...the Chairman must vote first time around and if there is equality of votes he gets a second vote. A casting vote is where the Chair has not voted first time around – so this provision seems designed to ensure that the Chairman must vote as an 'ordinary' member – and supports the overall aim of reaching a consensus. That wouldn't be achieved if the Chairman is allowed to abstain first time around, see which way the voting is going and then decides which argument he favours."
2. Community group – this should be a formally constituted group of residents with an interest in the running and operation of the airfield which is recognised by the Council – Part II of Section 106 refers
3. Nominated representatives will serve on the committee for a period of 3 years and should have duly nominated substitutes – S106 Agreement Part 1 point 9. Please ensure that a named substitute is nominated by each body and we are advised.

NB: This will be on the agenda for the next meeting in October – **ACTION: ALL**