

Minutes of the meeting of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM) held on 27 April 2023 via MS Teams.

Present:	
Tom Crowley	Chairman
Cllr Helyn Clack	Surrey County Council
Cllr Richard Biggs	Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Jonathan Drew	Chair, Noise Management Executive Board
Samantha Williams	Chair, Passenger Advisory Group
Cllr Malcolm Fillmore	Rusper Parish Council
Cllr Alan Jones	Burstow Parish Council
Angie Hills	ABTA
Cllr. Liz Kitchen	Horsham District Council
Cllr Mick Gillman	Tandridge District Council
Cllr Mike George	Horley Town Council
Cllr Margot McArthur	Kent County Council
Peter Barclay	Environmental and Amenity Groups
Cllr. Steve Waight	West Sussex County Council
Colin Stewart	BAR UK
Cllr Stephen Hiller	Mid Sussex District Council
Stuart Pick	London Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Hugh McConnellogue	Gatwick AOC
Cllr. Carolyn Evans	Charlwood Parish Council
Brett North	Gatwick Diamond Business
Rory Lillington	Airlines UK
Cllr. Rosemary Hobbs	Mole Valley District Council

Also in attendance:	
Stewart Wingate	Chief Executive Officer, GAL
Tim Norwood	Director of Corporate Affairs, Planning & Sustainability, GAL
Andy Sinclair	Head of Noise & Airspace Strategy, GAL
Alison Addy	Head of External Engagement & Policy, GAL
Melanie Wrightson	Stakeholder Engagement Manager, GAL
Monique Smart	GATCOM Secretariat
Graham Lake	GATCOM Technical Advisor
Robin Clarke	NATS
Rhian Thomas	Defra (for items 1-4 only)
Cerise Reynolds	Defra (for items 1-4 only)
Andrew Bickerdike	SASH (for item 10 only)

Apologies for absence were received from:

Cllr. Bob Bowdler (East Sussex County Council), Ana Christie (Sussex Chamber of Commerce), Anthony Middleton (C2C LEP), Chris Larkman (Which?), Cllr. Caroline Salmon (Mole Valley District Council), Fran Downton (Tourism SouthEast), Cllr Atif Nawaz (Crawley Borough Council), Dominic Rothwell (Unite), Ed Winter (GACC)

Membership Updates

The Chairman reported, with great sadness, the death of Rupert Simmons. Rupert was an East Sussex County Councillor for 25 years, where he served as the cabinet

member responsible for economy. As part of that role, he was appointed as the East Sussex County Council representative on GATCOM in 2013 and has contributed greatly to the work of GATCOM over the years. The Committee held a minute's silence in memory of Rupert Simmons.

The Secretariat provided the following updates to membership:

- Tandridge District Councillor have confirmed that Cllr Mick Gillman is their main representative on GATCOM, and Cllr Nicholas White is the substitute member.
- GACC confirmed that Ed Winter is now their representative on GATCOM.

The Secretariat also confirmed that as GACC have one seat on both the GATCOM Steering Group and NaTMAG it had been agreed that Ed Winter could attend both those meetings ahead of the formal appointment which will be put forward to GATCOM at the annual meeting in July.

The Chairman introduced Graham Lake. As confirmed to members via email this week, Graham had been appointed as the new Independent Technical Advisor to GATCOM. Graham stated that he looked forward to working with GATCOM.

Minutes Of The Last Meeting

1. Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of GATCOM held on 26 January 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.
2. In relation to the discussion at the last meeting about the term length of the noise and environmental reps on GATCOM, the Noise Management Executive Board Chairman, Jonathan Drew, asked if a more in-depth review could be considered, and he suggested this be done at the next GATCOM away day. The Chairman agreed that this could be added to the agenda for the next away day that was anticipated to take place in the autumn 2023.

Noise Action Plan – DEFRA

3. The committee welcomed Rhian Thomas and Cerise Reynolds from Defra who provided a [presentation](#) that outlined Defra's responsibility for implementing the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 which requires Noise Action Plans to be produced by major airports every five years (known as rounds).
4. The key points to note, including responses to questions, were:
 - GAL's new NAP, round four, must be published by February 2024.
 - The legislation requires that the noise mapping be based on 2021 data. These maps are intended to provide a snapshot of the noise impact arising from operations at the airport.
 - Due to Covid travel restrictions, mapping for 2021 has shown a highly anomalous situation. As a result, airports may supplement the 2021 data with information from a more representative period when drawing up Noise Action Plans. It was suggested by members that for Gatwick, 2019 would be a good year to use to supplement the 2021 data.
 - Population data is also based on 2021 data but not on projected population. However, population data can be added to the action planning by GAL.
 - Regulation does not provide for enforcement so there is no provision for not meeting actions. However, this is where GATCOM can help by holding the airport to account.

- It was questioned as to why core policy was excluded from NAP guidance. The GACC representative pointed out that The Regulations say NAPs must "contain estimates ... of the reduction of the number of people affected (annoyed, sleep disturbed, or other) as a result of the measures proposed." However, Defra/DfT's guidance merely says NAPs must "contain an indication of the expected outcome(s) of any measures and estimated numbers of people affected by actions." GACC feel that the first, a noise contour reduction projection is meaningful and measurable and can be monitored. However, the second is not helpful and GACC feel that GATCOM should stress to Defra and GAL that that will not be acceptable for Gatwick's NAP. Defra responded stating they are keen that airports do actively engage with the requirement and that it is covered in all NAPs.

Noise Action Plan – Gatwick Airport Limited

5. GAL then [presented](#) to GATCOM on their work to date and plans for engagement related to their Round 4 Noise Action Plan.

6. The key points to note were:

- GAL has completed the Strategic Noise Mapping exercise the outputs from which have been validated by Defra.
- GAL have an on-going review process through NaTMAG, the outputs from which will be included in the review process.
- A number of actions from Round 3 will continue into Round 4.
- Engagement is in its early stages but will progress through GATCOM, GATCOM Steering Group, NaTMAG and the NMB. NaTMAG will be briefed on the engagement plan in detail at their next meeting in May and have sight of an early draft with a final draft for review at their August meeting. GATCOM will have updates at the following two meetings.
- The draft plan will be submitted to Defra by 1st September 2023 and finalised by February 2024.
- In response to GACC's concerns above, GAL responded stating that they do use noise contours and despite increases in traffic over time the 2019 57dB contour was the smallest ever reported for Gatwick Airport.

Airspace Update

Airspace Modernisation

7. GAL reported that they were finalising the Initial Options Appraisal assessment slightly later than anticipated. The CAA Stage 2 Gateway assessment is now scheduled for September 2023. The sixth cycle of Stage 2 stakeholder engagement is planned for end Q2 2023, to inform stakeholders of the outputs of the Initial Options Appraisal.

8. The Stage 3 consultation is currently scheduled to take place in 2024. GAL stated that some movement in the timelines of the overall programme could be expected, this would have a consequent effect for the development of the Gatwick FASI airspace change proposal as GAL begin to integrate design options with those from the other interdependent proposals. It was also noted that the Airspace Change Organising Group (ACOG) had planned a public engagement exercise, but this has been delayed until Q3 2023.

Route 4

9. Stage 2 had now been completed and GAL have progressed to Stage 3 of airspace change process which requires a full options appraisal and public consultation. Work on Stage 3 was being re-profiled as a result of changes with the contractor. Public

consultation is still aimed for second half of 2023 but likely to be much later in the year.

10. The Environment and Amenity representative stated that it is important that all residents living near Gatwick should be able to rely on the existence of the very long-standing Noise Preferential Routes (NPRs) and know that they can only be moved after a comprehensive consultation process. It is also vital that the representation of the Route 4 NPR is clear and comprehensible to everyone. GAL stated that the DfT - which is responsible for setting the NPRs - had requested that the Route 4 NPR be amended to address a discrepancy between the NPR and the published SID that came about as a result of the reversion to the conventional route that was in place prior to the CAA's original ACP decision. This discrepancy had been identified in the Route 4 airspace change proposal Post Implementation Review decision (CAP 1912) published in September 2020; originally GAL had planned to address the discrepancy through the ongoing Route 4 airspace change process. GAL confirmed that as well as briefing NaTMAG it considered that it would be useful to hold a session with other interested stakeholders and so subsequently held a session with local groups with an interest in Route 4 to explain the change to the definition of the NPR. GAL would carefully consider how to incorporate the NPR and its definition into consultation material as part of the Route 4 airspace change to ensure that local stakeholders were able to properly situate the options produced as a result of that process, perhaps using existing flight track plots. However, it was reiterated that no flight path had changed as a result of the redefinition of the NPR.

NMB review

11. The GAL led review of the NMB was planned to start in July with a view to having a draft third term proposal to share ahead of the final NCF of the year, scheduled for 27 September. It was anticipated that the second term of the NMB would transition into a third term in 2024. Updates would be provided to GATCOM as the work progresses.

12. GAL reported that the NMB Outcomes Workshop had taken place on 29 March. Discussions had centred around outcomes of the NMB workplan to date and what tweaks might be made to processes during the remainder of the current NMB term. A report from the workshop was being drafted and would help identify lessons learned, an exercise that will help to inform the NMB Review.

Noise Management Board (NMB) – Executive Board (NEX) Report

13. Jonathan Drew, Co-Chair of the NMB, introduced his report (copies attached to the signed minutes) that summarised the key messages and recommendations arising from recent meetings. He highlighted the following points.

- The work around undercarriage deployment that was progressing well. The outcome is likely to be adapted general guidance for the Gatwick pages of the UK Aeronautical Information Publication, and if this does happen it would be a UK first to lead to adapted guidance. As a reminder, the hoped-for outcome (based on the monitoring carried out as part of this project) is to reduce noise impacts on the ground - in other words the aviation noise that could be heard by residents - by 2-3 dB in specific areas.
- On the Outcomes Workshop there were lots of comments about how engagement and communication could be improved and those will all be taken on board now and as well as by GAL going forward as part of the review.

14. GATCOM noted the report.

Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group (NATMAG)

15. Mike George, GATCOMs lead member for noise introduced his report (copies attached to the signed minutes) that summarised the key messages and recommendations arising from recent meetings.

16. GATCOM noted the report and NATMAG's key messages as detailed below:

- 1) NaTMAG members welcomed an update on the 2019 review of the Noise Insulation Scheme by Mitchell Environmental.
- 2) An insightful discussion was had on the redefined Route 4 Noise Preferential Route (NPR). It had underscored that there were no changes to the track of flights over the ground as a result of the redefinition of the Route 4 NPR.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

17. Stewart Wingate, Chief Executive Officer, GAL, reported on activity at the airport over the past quarter (copy attached to the signed minutes). He then highlighted the key points from his quarterly report as follows:

- In the year ending 31 December 2022 GAL had served 32.8 million passengers, achieving 70.4% of 2019 traffic levels.
- As detailed in [GALs 2022 financial report](#), the airport turned a profit of £196.5 million in 2022 following the substantial losses from the previous two years.
- GAL will invest over £250 million to reduce its own carbon emissions and become net zero by 2030. This is bringing forward a previously set target by 10 years. This will include replacing gas boilers and vehicles on the GAL estate.
- GAL has unveiled its [new brand identity](#) and refreshed vision, reflecting its strong ongoing recovery from the pandemic, providing a platform for the airport's next phase of growth and supporting significant economic opportunities for the region. Stewart Wingate suggested GATCOM may consider allowing his commercial team to come to the next GATCOM to provide a full update on this and how it aligns with GALs values and strategic priorities.
- Although operations continue to be affected by industrial action at both the Border and on the trains, GAL were pleased to inform GATCOM that pay negotiations with its own unionised staff have been agreed and completed.
- The many new airlines and routes from Gatwick were highlighted including Air India, Air China, Air Mauritius, Saudia, Delta and Lufthansa. Business representatives welcome these new routes that were already opening up new opportunities for local businesses.

Northern Runway Project - Update

18. Tim Norwood, Director of Corporate Affairs, Planning & Sustainability, GAL an update on the DCO Process. The key points to note were as follows:

- Engagement with stakeholders and statutory consultees continues as GAL finalise the DCO documents prior to submission.
- Due to Local Authorities requesting additional time and sharing of draft documents, the timescale for submission was now expected to be towards the end of June 2023.
- GAL will share its approach to the draft heads of terms of the s106 with the relevant local authorities in advance of the DCO application, but drafts would not be shared wider until the publication of the DCO.
- Some members did express concern about the level of resources required by already stretched Local Authorities and that additional funding should be provided. GAL responded stating that funds had already been provided to the ten authorities under a planning performance agreement and further funds had been made

available. GAL was also sharing information with local authorities through topic working groups.

- Once the DCO is submitted the timescales for the examination are then largely set out in process / guidance and by the panel of Inspectors and can be found detailed on the PINS [website](#)
- One member asked for assurances that construction traffic would not use local roads, should the work go ahead. GAL responded stating that the DCO application would include traffic management measures although it was likely that most construction traffic would use the motorway network. However, if a local supplier was being used, they may have to use more local roads.

Surrey & Sussex Healthcare (SASH) NHS Trust - Charity Partner Update

19. GATCOM welcomed Andrew Bickerdike from SASH who provided GATCOM with a brief overview of their charity partnership with Gatwick Airport Limited. This included:

- A [video](#) about the charity partnership that showed the deep links between the airport community and the hospital community
- A 2023 thank you Gatwick [video](#).

20. The presentation and videos included details of campaigns that are they are currently raising funds towards, including a new Cancer Centre Summerhouse, Emergency Department Staff Room and Children's Appeal. If any GATCOM members were able to make new introductions to people in the local area (or further afield) or want more details, they were encouraged to contact Andrew outside of the meeting at Andrew.Bickerdike@nhs.net.

GATCOM Steering Group – Chairman's Report

21. The Chairman of GATCOM introduced his report of the last Steering Group meeting on 6 April 2023 and highlighting the following:

- Section 5 of the Steering Group report detailed the discussions around the consideration of introducing public questions or members questions at GATCOM. Steering Group felt strongly that the role of the member should be enhanced and therefore recommended to GATCOM to introduce a member's question time on future agendas.

22. GATCOM agreed to establishing a process to enhance members roles and encourage members to submit questions ahead of each GATCOM meeting.

Passenger Advisory Group (PAG) – Chair's Report

23. The Chair of PAG introduced her report of the last PAG meeting that took place on 30 March 2023 and highlighting the following:

- Two PAG members had decided to step down from their volunteer roles. This had highlighted some concerns and frustrations PAG Members have experienced whilst undertaking their roles.
- GATCOM and GAL expressed thanks to those two members who have both been valued and committed members of PAG for some years.
- Stewart Wingate, GAL CEO, reinforced his support for PAG and assured GATCOM that GAL do fully support and appreciate the work of PAG. As in the past, GAL executives would continue to liaise with and work closely with the PAG Chair to ensure the relationship continues to build in a positive way. Stewart suggested

that Bronwen Jones, Development Director, attends a future GATCOM to update the wider membership on the work PAG and GAL do together.

- A recruitment process for up to four new volunteer members will follow shortly.

24. GATCOM agreed the following recommendation from PAG:

- That GATCOM notes the work of PAG and its engagement with GAL as the 'critical friend' and support its role as advocate on behalf of passengers.
- That GATCOM supports PAG in lobbying GAL for improvements to the multi-storey car parks to improve the passenger experience in this area.

Responses to DfT Consultations

25. GATCOM considered responses to the following DfT consultations:

- 2040 Zero Emissions Airport Targets - closing date 2 May
- Night Time Noise Abatement Objectives - closing date 9 May

26. Comments had been requested in advance from members and those were included in the draft responses included in the agenda pack. It was agreed that additional comments could be forwarded to the secretariat prior to the deadlines and those would be considered for incorporation into the final responses, and they would be resent to GATCOM members prior to submission.

Date of Next Meeting of GATCOM and its Sub-Groups

27. GATCOM noted the next meetings of GATCOM and its sub-groups as follows:

- The next meeting of GATCOM will take place on Thursday 20 July 2023 at 2.00pm at Gatwick Airport
- The next meeting of the GATCOM Steering Group will take place on Wednesday 28 June at 2.00pm via MS Teams. (post meeting note this date has now changed to Friday 7 July at 2.00pm via MS Teams)
- The next meeting of PAG will take place on Friday 16 June 2023 at 1.30pm at Gatwick Airport.

Chairman

The meeting concluded at 4.15pm.