

Minutes of the meeting of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee (GATCOM) held on 12 February 2026

Present:	
Tom Crowley	Chair
Angie Hills	ABTA
Cllr Alan Jones	Burstow Parish Council
Cllr Helyn Clack	Surrey County Council
Cllr Malcolm Fillmore	Rusper Parish Council
Cllr Nigel Emery	Horsham District Council
Ana Christie	Sussex Chamber of Commerce
Brett North	Gatwick Diamond
Ed Winter	Environmental and Amenity Groups
Igor Bartkiv	London Chamber of Commerce
Samantha Williams	Passenger Advisory Group
Cllr Garry Wall	West Sussex County Council
Cllr Bob Bowdler	East Sussex County Council
High McConnellogue	Airline Operators Committee
Cllr Lisa Scott	Charlwood Parish Council
Cllr Mike George	Horley Town Council
Cllr Nick Hilton	Crawley Borough Council
Cllr Chris Phillips	Mid Sussex District Council
Cllr Richard Biggs	Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Robin Clarke	NATS

Also in attendance:	
Pierre-Hugues Schmit	Chief Executive Officer, GAL
Sam Fulton	Director of Communications and External Affairs, GAL
Alison Addy	Head of External Engagement & Policy, GAL
Andy Sinclair	Head of Noise and Airspace Strategy
Amy Geoghegan	External Engagement Lead, GAL
Monique Smart	GATCOM Secretariat
Graham Lake	GATCOM Technical Advisor

1. Apologies and Welcomes

1.1 Apologies were received from: Cllr Peter Osborne (Kent County Council) Jonathan Drew (Noise Management Oversight Board Chair) Fran Downton (Tourism SouthEast) Cllr Nicholas White (Tandridge District Council).

2. Minutes of The Last Meeting

2.1 Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of GATCOM held on 6 November 2025 be approved and signed by the Chair.

3. GATCOM Steering Group – Chairman’s Report

3.1 The Chair of GATCOM introduced his report (copies attached to the signed minutes) of the last Steering Group Meeting that took place on 26 January.

3.2 The Chair highlighted that Steering Group had discussed the latest DfT consultation on Air Navigation Direction and Guidance and he thanked all the GATCOM

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members and member organisations that had contributed views and comments. As detailed in the report the response has now been submitted to the DfT.

3.3 The Chair also highlighted that at the GATCOM away day there seemed to be consensus that in-person meetings are favoured. However as not all GATCOM members were present at the away day, the Secretariat conducted a poll asking all GATCOM members and substitute members to state a preference. The result of that poll was 16 in favour of keeping the current arrangement alternating between in-person and online and only 7 in favour of all meetings being in person.

3.4 Some members voiced disappointment about the result of the poll and reiterated their preference for in-person meetings and the value of networking before and after the meetings.

3.5 In relation to sharing information with communities about the Noise Management Board and the Community Assembly, it was noted that a factsheet was attached to the last GATCOM meeting agenda and that a link was also in the NMB report in this meeting's agenda pack.

3.6 GATCOM agreed the following:

- That the current arrangements of alternating between in person and virtual meetings remain in place for both GATCOM and the GATCOM Steering Group.
- The STEM Centre be used as the venue for the next GATCOM meeting on 30 April 2026 (not 23 April as listed in report)
- We keep apprised of Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation and review any changes to GATCOM membership as needed.
- Ask GAL to promote the Community Assembly of the Noise Management Board via their official social media channels.
- Ask the NMB to provide materials (such as electronic posters) for GATCOM Members, that can easily be shared on social media and via local newsletters that encourage membership of the NMB.
- Ask the NMB to consider publishing a factsheet about how to make a noise complaint.
- Agree the GATCOM Work Programme 2026 (as previously circulated)

4. Passenger Advisory Group

4.1 The Chair of PAG, Samantha Williams, introduced the report (copies attached to the signed minutes) of the last PAG meeting and activities during the last quarter.

4.2 Samantha added that since her report was drafted ABTA have launched a new [Accessible and Assisted Travel Guide and Checklist](#) for travellers that PAG have welcomed and advise people to share.

4.3 Samantha also informed GATCOM that two of the volunteer PAG members are currently incapacitated and GATCOM joined in wishing them a speedy recovery.

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4.4 GATCOM noted the work of PAG and its engagement with GAL as the 'critical friend' and supports its role as advocate on behalf of passengers.

5 Chief Executive Officer's Report

5.1 GATCOM received a report from Pierre-Hugues Schmit, Chief Executive Officer, GAL on activity at the airport over the past quarter (copy attached to the signed minutes). The key points highlighted by Pierre-Hugues were:

- Jet2 will start flying from London Gatwick in March to 29 destinations. Jet2 will operate six A321neo's with five permanently based at Gatwick. Jet2's arrival also creates more than 300 direct jobs across flight deck, cabin crew, engineering, and ground operations.
- Other new carriers include Air Asia X, Air France, Condor, and Eurowings.
- The airport is well-equipped to keep flights running safely and on time this winter season. More than 450 colleagues support London Gatwick's winter operations across airfield, engineering, and fire service teams. This includes 180 "Polar Bears", who are volunteers trained to operate snow-clearance vehicles and 50 landside "Yetis", responsible for gritting and clearing 27 miles of airport roads, car parks, and transport routes, keeping passengers safe.
- GAL hosted the annual Transport Forum in October, bringing together transport leaders, local authorities, and community representatives from across the Southeast.
- GAL also hosted the fourth Gatwick Economic Summit in November with over 200 senior delegates from across the region in attendance.
- Business Change Manager Asher Prower was shortlisted as a Future Leader in the Ethnicity Awards 2025.
- GAL has welcomed a new Head of Aviation Development Jonny Macneal and Mathieu Boutitie, as the new Chief Technical Officer,
- GAL continues its commitment to champion local and national produce by welcoming Sknfed and Discover London to the North Terminal. In addition, Venchi, an Italian chocolatier and gelato maker has opened its first UK store at London Gatwick.
- In December, the annual Gatwick Joint Authorities Air Quality Meeting was held, and the results of the air quality monitoring programme were reviewed by Gatwick and the local councils.
- One of GALs Engineering Apprentice Olivia Bushell has won the Institute of Engineering and Technology Apprentice Prize, awarded every year to apprentices who excel in their role.
- Also, as part of National Apprenticeship Week GAL hosted an Apprenticeship Fair in the STEM Centre.

5.2 Questions from members as a result of the CEO report, and the responses given, included the following:

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- A member asked if any of the new Airlines flying A220's would be modified versions with the known 'whine' noise being fixed. Andy Sinclair responded stating that the A220 issue was known and new A220 aircraft have been modified. However, it was unknown yet when this fix will be rolled out to existing A220s. Pierre-Hugues stated that the Airspace Office at GAL have very active conversations with all new carriers to make sure they are aware of the quality of operations expected at Gatwick.
- Following the recent Judicial Review hearing in the High Court, a member asked if GAL are able to provide any update in relation to the timeline and what happens now. Pierre-Hugues responded stating that the hearings were held on the 20-24 January. A judge indicated that an initial ruling is expected in early March. Following that any party could then seek appeal. That appeal process could take 6-12 months.

6 Member's Questions

6.1 No written member questions were received.

7 Airspace Update

7.1 Andy Sinclair, Head of Noise and Airspace Strategy provided the following updates in relation to airspace and noise.

- GAL have paused progress of London Airspace South (LAS) and are in position to hand over the document sets to UKADS. Once formed UKADS will take responsibility for all airspace modernisation across the UK. Latest indications are that onboarding of UKADS will take place sometime in Q2-Q3 this year.
- The DfT and CAA have undertaken several consultations to which GAL have submitted responses including the most recent DfT's Air Navigation Directions/Air Navigation Guidance consultation.

7.2 Questions from members as a result of Airspace updates, and the responses given, included the following:

- A member asked if plans for Heathrow expansion are delaying Airspace Modernisation. Andy Sinclair responded stating that it is expected, in order to take forward Heathrow expansion from 2035, that all the airspace change for London needs to have been agreed and completed the airspace change process by 2029. Deployment however is a different thing. Andy added that London Airspace South (LAS) is considered to be the less complex and could be one of the first to deploy after 2029.

7.3 Andy then went on to share a [presentation](#) on the London Gatwick Route 4 consultation that was currently live and runs for 14 weeks until 28 April 2026. Andy encouraged all GATCOM members and their organisations and communities to participate in the consultation and attend either an online or in-person event. The details of how to do so can be found in the presentation and on the dedicated webpage <https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/london-gatwick-airport/route4/>. Andy also informed GATCOM that the detail included residents being able to pin their homes on a map to see how the different options may affect them.

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7.4 Questions from members in relation to the route 4 consultation and presentation, and the responses given, included the following:

- A member asked if it would be possible for GAL to look at alternative options should the consultation show that all four options are not supported and offer alternative options. Andy explained that any feedback to alter a route would need to have solid logical rationale but there will be time in the process to look at alternatives before anything is submitted to the CAA at the end of the year.
- The same member asked about UKADS Advisory Board that initially suggested would have community representatives, but the recent consultations have suggested it would now only be made up of Airlines and Airports. He asked how the community voice will be presented in Airspace change going forward. Andy explained that currently the CAP1616 process is being followed. Any updated version of that will still have a requirement for consultation. Andy also commented that GAL had responded to the recent consultations around UKADS and included mention of the need for the community voice.
- When questioned if GAL knew when the new Air Navigation Guidance would be published, Andy understood that it was expected before this summer parliamentary recess in order to ensure it can meet the Heathrow timeline.

8 Noise Management Board

8.1 The Chair referred members to the NMB update report (copies attached to the signed minutes). In the absence of Jonathan Drew, NMB Oversight Board Chair, Andy Sinclair from GAL introduced the report that summarised the work of the Noise Management Board since the last GATCOM meeting. Andy Highlighted the following from the report:

- Members are encouraged to share and [NMB factsheet](#) and promote the Community Assembly within their communities.
- The focus of the NMB now is the creation of the next workplan and this will be up for discussion at the next Oversight Board in March.

9 Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group (NATMAG)

9.1 Mike George, GATCOM's lead member for noise, introduced the report (copies attached to the signed minutes) that summarised the key messages and recommendations arising from recent NaTMAG meetings.

9.2 Mike explained that since his attached report was published with the GATCOM agenda, NaTMAG has had another meeting where they discussed the Noise Action Plan Annual Progress Report 2025. This would be shared with GATCOM members shortly.

9.3 Linked to Air Quality, NaTMAG has been asked to find out about the availability of APU manufacturer's noise and emissions data with the possibility that it might be used to inform a future piece of work. The NaTMAG Chair confirmed that no suitable data had been obtained so far but that next steps are to contact the engine manufacturers. Mike explained that APUs are small jet engines providing power for turn around and pre departures and members would like to understand if there is any impact of these, particularly during the busy early wave.

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9.4 Mike also explained that the NaTMAG Chair had agreed to engage with the relevant Local Authority Environmental Health Officer to explore options to address the prolific complainants concerns in Broadbridge Heath.

9.5 The issue of odour was discussed, and it was explained that this used to be included and discussed at NaTMAG and that a study had been conducted by consultants Ricardo pre-2019. However, this is no longer managed by the Airspace Office or reported to NaTMAG. It was noted that a member question may come forward in relation to this.

9.6 It was also confirmed at NaTMAG last week that Gatwick will shortly introduce a restriction preventing unscheduled aircraft from landing before 06:00 local time, with such flights instead held in a holding pattern until after 06:00. Scheduled arrivals before 06:00 will continue to be permitted to land. The airport expects to implement the measure in mid- to late-February, although the exact date is not yet confirmed. Full updates will be provided to NaTMAG and the NMB in due course.

10 Date of Next Meeting of GATCOM and its Sub-Groups

10.1 GATCOM noted the next meetings of GATCOM, and its sub-groups and associated meetings as follows:

Passenger Advisory Group - Thursday 12 March 2026.

GATCOM Steering Group - Thursday 19 March 2026.

GATCOM - Thursday 30 April 2026 at 2pm at Gatwick Airport STEM Centre.

NATMAG - Thursday 14 May 2026

NMB Community Assembly – 18 March 2026

NMB Oversight Board – 25 March 2026

The meeting concluded at 3.30pm