

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr Peter Greenyer

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

1. Summary

1.01 The Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee is set up in accordance with Section 35 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982, as amended. Its membership is constituted from representatives of users of Biggin Hill Airport (BHAL), local authorities and residents' associations.

1.02 The Committee is a consultative forum only, has no executive powers and is not a forum for dispute resolution. Nevertheless, the management of Biggin Hill Airport Ltd (BHAL) take the views of the committee very seriously. The aims of the Consultative Committee are as follows:

- (a) to consult with and inform the local community and Airport users on all developments and plans for the Airport.
- (b) to support the efficient functioning and economic development of the Airport, its airport business community, its resident workforce, while moderating its impact upon local communities and the environment.
- (c) to hold the airport Management to account for promises and undertakings made to the committee in pursuit of the above.
- (d) to ensure that the Airport plays an active role in supporting the economic activities and objectives of the local and regional communities (business and residential)

1.03 The Committee normally meets at the Airport four times a year. The meetings are held in January (when the business meeting is preceded by the Annual General Meeting at which the Annual Report is presented), April, July and October.

1.04 The level of attendance at meetings over the years has been good and this continued to be the case in 2024. Discussions are well-informed and illuminating. As usual, we are grateful to David Winstanley, the Airport's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), for his comprehensive reports and explanations to the Committee.

2. **Membership**

2.01. The BHACC has the benefit of many long-standing members, and the committee are grateful to all members for their continued support. During the year the committee have been advised of a number of changes:

2.02 In December 2024 the committee were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Richard Parry. Richard served the committee for many years with devotion and commitment in his role as chair of the noise and safety sub-committee. His expert contribution to committee affairs will be greatly missed. BHAL advise that the search for a suitable replacement is in hand and that the committee will be consulted prior to any appointment being confirmed.

2.03 During the year Cllr Diana Esler retired from the committee and was replaced by Cllr Nigel Williams – representing the Sevenoaks District Council. The committee expresses their thanks to Cllr Esler and welcomes Cllr. Williams to the committee.

2.04 During the year the committee confirmed the appointment of Mr Thomas Turrell – representing the Greater London Authority. The GLA have not had a representative on the committee for some time and we look forward to welcoming Mr Turrell to the first meeting in 2025.

2.05 I regret to report that our attempts to encourage the attendance of Surrey and Kent County councils continue to meet with no success. When this issue was discussed at the last AGM it was suggested that following suitable further efforts during the coming year, we may then wish to consider approaching Warlingham and Woldingham Parish Councils.

3. **Committee Business**

3.01 Committee annual report.

The details of our committee business are very well and concisely reported within the minutes of the BHACC. These excellent minutes are well known to the members and exist in the public domain, so I do not intend to reproduce large tracts of our business within this report. However, there are certain matters which feature on a regular basis within our committee proceedings, and I set out below a summarised report of the more important issues referred to therein.

3.02 Airport performance and aircraft movements

3.02.1 The performance of the airport during 2024 was slightly reduced with a total number of aircraft movements in the year reported as being 39,331 a 3% reduction verses 2023 and some way below the totals achieved in the past. The airport continues to offer excellent employment opportunities and total numbers employed directly at the airport total 229 as at the end of 2024.

3.02.2 This year the Airport launched its Economic Footprint study highlighting the key role the Airport plays in attracting inward investment, creating economic value and job creation. The report showed that the Airport generates £200m GVA to the National economy, supports 1,760 direct jobs and 2,292 indirectly. Critically, circa 88 jobs are sustained by every 1000 air traffic movements.

3.03 Noise and Track Complaints.

3.03.1 The BHACC has the benefit of the Noise and Safety Sub-Committee Chaired until recently by Richard Parry. The Sub-Committee Chairman presents to the BHACC a full and clear written report of the results of their examination of all noise and track complaints recorded by the Airport since the previous meeting and the actions taken thereon. We are grateful to the members of the Sub-Committee for their dedication to this task on our behalf. The airport continues to make progress in developing procedures for following up comments, enquiries and complaints – these measures included the introduction of the ANOMS system last year which has been central in improving the analysis and understanding of aircraft movements and their adherence to the agreed track protocols in place at Biggin Hill.

3.03.2 The accurate reporting of incidents has been an issue which the committee has been involved with this year, we are grateful for the enormous amount of work undertaken by BHAL and our Noise and Safety subcommittee in bringing this matter to a successful conclusion. I am sure the committee will now be able to make use of these new reports to bring forward positive proposals for the benefit of the those most effected by airport operations.

3.03.3 The BHAL management report that the total of 972 complaints and auto reported violations were received in the 2024 year – this compares favourably to the 1746 reported for 2023. All complaints received with sufficient information are investigated by BHAL including those received from persons considered vexatious. During 2024 complaints from vexatious persons totalled only 46 compared with 1246 reported in 2023. Of the 2024 new complaints 698 (72%) were validated as compliant flights by the BHAL assessment process - as reviewed by the BHACC sub-committee. During the 2024 year the airport passed a further 220 (23%) incidents to the SANARB committee which resulted in 62 warnings and 3 penalties being issued to users. These matters are set out in greater detail in the quarterly reports presented by or Noise and safety sub-committee which are posted on the BHAL website for public access.

3.04 - Noise Action Plan "NAP"- progress review.

In 2021 the Airport published its first 5 yearly review of the Noise Action Plan as agreed with LBB in 2016, and this review was published and is available on the Airport's website. The NAP was agreed between BHAL and LBB as part of the agreement for extended operating hours requested by BHAL in 2015 and actioned in 2017. The Airport CEO reports progress on improvements identified within the NAP review on a quarterly basis and these have included updated code conducts, improved website information, publication of the Web-Trak NSA and trials to reduce ground engine noise. As reported last year Bromley Council will not consider the review produced by BHAL until the after the decision on the Runway 03 approach has been received from the CAA -see section 3.05. The Airport's position is clear in that it has complied with all the requirements of a NAP review as outlined in the original Deed of Variation.

3.05 - Runway 03 Instrument approach – airspace change application.

Having received the CAAs decision in December 2021 to reject the original application for a RNAV 03 Instrument approach, the Airport submitted a new statement of need outlining its intention to conduct a full operational trial of a new approach using new technology to produce an initiative design. BHAL, advise they have recently received encouraging news regarding this application which will be reported to the BHACC in January 2025 – we hope that these positive developments will also allow some progress on the matters referred to in para 3.04.

3.06 – Airports residents noise action forum – ARNAF- launched this year, is an airport led initiative to engage directly with local residents' associations who have contacted the airport seeking a cooperative approach to minimising the impact that BHAL operation have on the residents concerned. Whilst not directly involved, the BHACC applaud and support this initiative, and the committee have expressed interest in being keep up to date on matters discussed and progress made. We believe this approach has proven successful for Tatsfield residents and the current involvement with the Keston Village RA will hopefully produce similar positive outcomes.

3.07 - Airport developments and Planning issues – The airport plans to resurface the main runway during the spring/ summer of 2025 and preparatory works for this project have already commenced, these works will not in any way alter the dimensions of the existing runway but will improve the airport infrastructure for years into the future. The new hangar and service centre for Bombardier aircraft continues to be a success - creating a substantial number of highly paid jobs within the airport. Bombardier have also decided to extend their airport investment by the construction of an additional completions hangar which is scheduled for completion during 2025.

3.08 - Community relations – the BHACC receives regular updates from the CEO of BHAL on the various activities the airport may be engaged in with the local community. The airport also continues to produce their informative regular “aerogram” which is circulated by email to the BHACC members.

I remain indebted to our Vice Chairman, Nick Kemp and our Secretary, Janet Stollery and all the members of the BHACC for their hard work in support of the committee and its aims.

Peter Greenyer
Chairman - BHACC

23rd January 2025