

**AIRPORT POLICY TASK GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES  
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 8.00 am on  
15 DECEMBER 2006**

Present:- Councillors A Dean – Chairman.  
Councillors C A Cant, J F Cheetham, M A Gayler,  
E J Godwin, A R Thawley and P A Wilcock.

Officers in attendance:- A Bovaird, R Harborough, J Mitchell,  
M J Perry, C Roberts and T Turner.

**AP8 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Group's meeting held on 17 November 2006 were accepted as a true and correct record

**AP9 BOUQUETS**

The Chairman referred to the good publicity given to the Council following the decision it had taken to refuse permission for the latest requested hike in mppa. He thanked officers and Members for "doing us proud".

**AP10 AFTERMATH OF DECISION**

John Mitchell outlined the likely duration and accommodation requirements of the anticipated Inquiry. The Planning Inspectorate was currently programming the Inquiry to open in May but officers were seeking postponement to June.

Officers reported on the White Paper Progress Report and the proposed consultation on the emissions cost analysis.

The Chairman suggested that the report to the Development Control Committee on Aviation and Climate Change should be expanded to comment on the DfT Progress Report for consideration by the Stansted Airport Advisory Panel in the New Year.

The Council's press release responding to the White Paper Progress Report was discussed.

**AP11 SECOND RUNWAY ISSUE/RELATIONSHIP WITH SSE**

Councillor Thawley raised the Council's relationship with SSE. Alasdair Bovaird mentioned that SSE was asking for financial

help with the organisation of its Community Conference which would cost between £7,000 and £10,000.

It was understood that BAA would probably reveal its preferred option for a new runway in late January. John Mitchell confirmed that the White Paper Progress Report expected the runway inquiry to last from 2008 to 2010 and the new runway to be in operation from 2015.

The Chairman asked officers to produce a key milestone document showing all significant events to take place in the future course of the Stansted planning applications and Roger Harborough agreed to put this on Covalent as soon as the position was clarified.

*(Councillor P Wilcock had to leave the meeting at 8.30am)*

Alasdair Bovaird stressed that SSE played a very different role from that of the Council. The Group expressed the view that the Council should contribute to SSE's costs in staging its Community Conference, but that the majority share should be raised by SSE, with the Council's contribution capped at £5,000.

Councillor M Gayler thought there was a need to increase web site publicity for the No Second Runway message.

In answer to Councillor E Godwin the Chairman confirmed that meetings would be resumed with SSE and also with BAA.

In answer to a question Michael Perry confirmed that Members were not now restricted from joining SSE but must inform him of their membership of SSE since it would amount to a registrable interest.

AP12

## **CONFERENCE ON AIRPORT PLANNING ISSUES**

Alasdair Bovaird suggested that in view of the Council's position as authority with pre-eminent knowledge of aviation matters, it would be useful to hold a conference in March 2007 at the Council's offices to which like minded professionals, technical and scientific experts and local authority representatives might be invited. It was felt this would increase the Council's prestige and provide good publicity whilst the initial planning refusal was still in the minds of the public. It was recognised that speakers would need to be procured using external event organisers. Members asked that a report with dates be brought to the January meeting of the Task Group.

AP13 **POSSIBLE BREAK-UP OF BAA**

Roger Harborough informed Members that the Office of Fair Trading had announced that, provisionally, it had decided to refer the supply of airport services by BAA to the Competition Commission for more detailed investigation. Its market study had found the current structure potentially restricted competition and that the proposed significant investment could be costly for air passengers and the UK. The OFT consultation on its proposal ran until 8 February so it seemed appropriate for this matter to be reported on at the January STAAP meeting on 22 January and referred thence to the Environment Committee on 23 January. Members wished to advance the next meeting of the Airport Policy Task Group if necessary to accommodate this item and Roger Harborough agreed to check the timings of all relevant meetings.

AP14 **NIGHT FLIGHTS**

It was noted that campaigning must continue on this matter.

AP15 **BAA RELATIONSHIP – 15-25 MPPA PERMISSION**

Members considered that there were many live issues relating to the 2003 planning permission. Councillor A Dean invited Members to send opinions to him.

AP16 **COMMUNICATIONS AND PR**

Members discussed communication needs. It was agreed that the Stansted Explained website should be retained but that more use should also be made of the parish magazines and local papers for obtaining the community response once the date for the inquiry was known. It was agreed that John Mitchell or Roger Harborough would write an article for publication in the parish magazines and local papers. In addition Roger Harborough was organising a Member level meeting of the four authorities. The date was yet to be arranged. Councillor A Thawley expressed concerns about the cost implications of the external hosting arrangements for the Stansted Explained site. He felt this was best maintained in house.

AP17 **OTHER BUSINESS**

Tracy Turner informed the meeting that the Council had been shortlisted for a Local Government Chronicle award for its

Stansted Explained initiative. The presentation event would happen on 5 March 2007 at an hotel in London.

It was agreed that this should be headlined on the Council's website home page.

The meeting ended at 9.20 am.