

**STANSTED AIRPORT ADVISORY PANEL held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 23 OCTOBER 2006**

Present:- Councillor A Dean – Chairman.
Councillors K R Artus, C A Cant, J F Cheetham, R M Lemon,
A R Thawley, A M Wattebot and P A Wilcock.

Officers in attendance:- W Cockerell, R Harborough, M T Purkiss and J Roos.

SA19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M L Foley, E J Godwin and G Sell.

SA20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cheetham declared an interest as a member of the Hatfield Forest Management Committee, NWEPPHA and the National Trust. Councillor Dean declared an interest as a member of SSE. Councillor Lemon declared an interest as a member of the National Trust. Councillor Thawley declared an interest as a member of CPRE and the National Trust. Councillor Wilcock declared an interest as a member of CPRE.

SA21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2006 were received and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SA22 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute SA12(ii) – Climate Change Review

Councillor Dean suggested that the Council should look at ways of giving greater priority and attention to the issue of climate change.

Councillor Cheetham agreed and said that climate change was being given greater priority nationally and in the Regional Plan. She suggested that it could be included within Supplementary Planning Guidance. Councillor Artus supported this and said that a cohesive policy should be drawn up in contrast to the disjointed policies of central government. Councillor Thawley said that it could be built into the supplementary guidance as part of the Local Development Framework.

Councillor Dean said that he had attended a conference at Newmarket arranged by EEDA which had focused on sustainability and a number of delegates had drawn attention to the impact of aviation. He said that the EEDA representatives had antagonised many of the delegates as they seemed intent on ignoring this issue.

Councillor Cheetham said that at a meeting of the European Panel the reworking of transport policies had been discussed and she was not convinced that emissions trading would help the problem. She suggested that the Energy Efficiency Officer should give a presentation to Members on how emissions trading works and whether it is effective. The Energy Efficiency Officer said that emissions trading did not have clear or guaranteed outcomes and he highlighted recent problems where credits had become almost worthless. He said that often the impact of emissions trading was to move pollution from one place to another.

Councillor Wilcock said that he had recently met pupils at the Newport Primary School and they had expressed concern at the global warming impact of airport expansion. Councillor Wattebot said that she had had similar discussions with children in Thaxted who were now much more aware of the impact of global warming and also aircraft noise.

Action:- An informal working party of the Panel be established to consider the impact of transport, in particular aviation, on climate change and to report back to the Panel with recommendations.

(ii) Minute SA13 – Cross Subsidisation

Councillor Cheetham said that this issue had been raised at the last SASIG meeting and it had now been minuted that Uttlesford and East Hertfordshire District Councils and Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils are opposed to cross subsidisation.

Councillor Wilcock said that SASIG has agreed to put pressure on the Government for a complete review of the White Paper. The Policy and Conservation Manager said that the Leader had been asked to sign a letter in similar terms and whilst he was prepared to put pressure on the Government he had reservations about urging the Government to come up with alternative proposals. However, some members of the Panel felt that this would be appropriate

Action:- Officers to discuss further with the Leader of the Council.

(iii) Minute SA15 – Council’s Communication Strategy

Councillor Lemon asked whether regular updates were being issued to town and parish councils. The Planning and Conservation Manager said that copies of the Further Information received from BAA at the request of the Council had been sent to local councils in hard copy with a request for comments by 31 October, he had exchanged emails with a number of councils and the Stansted Explained website was being kept up to date.

Councillor Artus said that the issue of a banner being displayed at the Council Offices had been raised by the Advisory Panel and Members had asked for a list of the pros and cons. However, he said that no report had ever come back to this forum. The Planning and Conservation Manager said that the professional advice of the communication consultants had been taken and the matter had not been pursued as it was felt that the Stansted Explained website was a more suitable means of communicating the Council’s position.

Councillor Cheetham said that the Executive Manager Development Services had reported back to the Development Control Committee that Government consent would be required and was likely to be refused for the display of a banner. However, she said that other councils seemed to display banners without any problems.

Action:- Officers to report back on the pros and cons of displaying a banner and the matter be brought to a speedy resolution.

(iv) Minute SA17(iv) – Stansted Airport Community Trust

Councillor Wilcock reported that all monies from the noise and track keeping fines had now been transferred to the Community Trust Fund.

(v) Minute SA17(vi) – Airlines Consultative Committee

In response to a question from Councillor Wilcock it was confirmed that officers were meeting the ACC.

(vi) Minute SA18 – Current Planning Application

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager reported on the current position with planning application 0717/06/FUL. He said that in relation to the health impact study arrangements had been made for a representative of the Health Protection Agency to attend the meeting of the Development Control Committee on 29 November. Site visits to assess noise and light pollution were also being arranged. Councillor Lemon asked that Members note the double glazing which had been installed at great cost at Hatfield Broad Oak Primary School in an attempt to reduce noise disturbance.

Councillor Lemon said that he would be attending a conference in November which would look at the impact of airports on schools and he would report back to the Advisory Panel.

In response to a question from Councillor Artus officers said that as BAA claimed that the increase above 25 mppa would not have any additional impact, they had offered merely to roll forward the obligations from the existing Section 106 agreement. However, BAA was in discussion with the county councils about highway and transport implications.

Councillor Cant referred to the problems of not having comparative information over different time periods on the impact of aviation on schools and health. The Policy and Conservation Manager said that the East of England Public Health Group had expressed some interest in this issue. Councillor Wattebot suggested that there might be some benefit in the future in the Council offering a bursary to gather information on this issue.

Councillor Dean concluded that account needed to be taken of the technical trade off between minimising take off and landing noise and the additional fuel that would be required for the related manoeuvres.

Action: - The Advisory Panel to consider the feasibility of obtaining comparative information at a future meeting.

SA23

FLIGHT EVALUATION UNIT

Councillor Cant said that the visit to the Flight Evaluation Unit had been worthwhile and she had been reassured that records were kept of every complaint regardless of whether it was an arrival or a departure. Councillor Wilcock added that Chris Bennett from SSE had monitored complaints over a period of three months and the only discrepancy was where one individual had submitted ten complaints, six of which had been identified and four which had been submitted on one day had not been found.

Action: - Councillor Dean to thank the Flight Evaluation Unit for arranging the visit and say that Members were reassured by what had been seen.

SA24

STANSTED AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Councillor Cheetham referred to the Agenda for the meeting of the Stansted Airport Consultative Committee to be held on 25 October 2006. She said that she would be unable to attend and asked that Councillor Wilcock raise a number of issues on her behalf.

She referred to a press release on employment which had been issued by the workers union claiming that employers at the airport were flouting union rules through the use of migrant workers as casual workers. Councillor Wilcock said that this was a difficult matter to prove as the employers claimed to use reputable agencies to employ these people. He said that there could be a problem with sub agencies using migrants who were often housed in multiple occupation.

Councillor Cheetham said that she understood that BAA was not renewing leases of properties in Bangers Green and asked if Councillor Wilcock could raise this issue and ask if it was an indication that BAA was about to sell these properties. She said that it had given an undertaking that the properties and their gardens would be maintained.

Councillor Cheetham said that she was outraged that BAA was now charging people one pound to drop off or pick up passengers in the pick up zone in the short stay car park and she had been told that BAA had asked for this Council's opinion but she was not aware that this had been put to Members. She also felt that there was a previous agreement that free parking would continue to be made available for a period of up to 15 minutes.

The Policy and Conservation Manager said that the issue had been raised through the Transport Forum Steering Group. He said that details of the Section 106 Agreement had previously been reported to Members and, on checking the situation, it had been found that whilst there was an obligation to provide a pick up and drop off facility it did not mention this being free.

Action: - Councillor Wilcock to raise this issue at the STACC meeting and BAA to be invited to meet the Chairmen of the Advisory Panel and the Development Control Committee prior to the Transport Forum meeting in November.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.