

GACC NEWSLETTER

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Dear Members

Airport developments

In September Gatwick handled about 750,000 passengers compared to 4.3m in 2019. It is currently operating only about 50 air traffic movements daily and the forecast for the rest of November is from 10 to 50 per day due to lockdown and restricted airline schedules.

The airport continues to operate using just its North Terminal and is likely to do so until well into 2021. The continued downturn in traffic has led to significant reductions in capital expenditure and, regrettably, further job losses.

Build Back Better or Build Back Bigger?

We were pleased that the October meeting of Gatwick's statutory Consultative Committee, GATCOM, considered ways in which the Government, the airport and other key stakeholders should ensure a green recovery for Gatwick and the region and address the climate change agenda.

GACC set out a wide range of actions that should be taken to ensure Gatwick's operations become compatible with climate change imperatives and its other adverse environmental and noise impacts are reduced. These included:

- Enforceable zero carbon targets for aviation, backed by law;
- Ensuring aviation pays a fair contribution towards public finances and is no longer subsidised;
- Effective environmental and noise regulation; and
- Raising consumer awareness of aviation's adverse impacts.

We also called for the use of less noisy aircraft at Gatwick, the elimination of night flights and investment in communities around Gatwick to create jobs that are genuinely environmentally and economically sustainable. Full details are on our website at <http://www.gacc.org.uk/latest-news.php>.

By contrast, Gatwick's CEO announced that the airport's goal is to Build Back Bigger. He also confirmed that the airport still plans to submit, in 2021, a planning application seeking permission to make routine use of its emergency runway.

Noise Management Board

The first meeting of Gatwick's new Noise Management Executive Board took place on 21 October, having been delayed from March. GACC has one of the two seats representing community and environmental groups.

Jointly with other community groups around the airport we proposed a series of actions intended to reduce noise impacts for all communities around the airport and under flight

paths. These included eliminating night flights, putting in place a new low noise standard for arrivals and a league table to monitor airline performance, reducing the noise levels at which departures are fined and taking action to reduce early deployment of landing gear which increases noise. Many of our proposals were supported by the two council representatives on the Board.

Disappointingly there was little reaction from the airport itself and other industry members of the board and it was not possible to agree a firm work plan. We are encouraging the chairman to make sure a plan is finalised as soon as possible so that work can get underway.

The NMB has a virtual public meeting on 3 December. If you'd like to attend the meeting you should email nmb@gatwickairport.com requesting a place.

Gatwick's Noise Action Plan

As reported in our last newsletter, GACC has carried out an assessment of Gatwick's progress in delivering the actions required by its legal Noise Action Plan. We concluded that many actions are not on track, including some that should have been completed in 2019.

We are pleased that discussions through Gatwick's various noise management bodies has resulted in recognition of our concerns and opened up avenues for more detailed engagement and changes in how some items are reported and acted on.

We are also pleased that the Department for Transport has indicated they expect to engage further with GACC on the format and process of future plans or their replacements.

Joining GACC: please spread the word

Please encourage your friends, family and neighbours to join GACC and help protect the interests of communities around the airport and under flight paths. Information on how to join is on our website here: <http://www.gacc.org.uk/contact-us.php>.

GACC contact details

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