

# GACC NEWSLETTER

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Dear Members

## 2020/21 Annual General Meeting

Many thanks to all members who were able to join our 2021 Annual General Meeting held by Zoom on 13 May. The meeting unanimously approved GACC's accounts for the years ended 30 April 2020 and 2021 and an updated constitution. The Executive Committee retired, as required by the constitution, and its members were re-elected.

There was a valuable debate amongst members, focused on our priorities for the current year. We will expect most of our time in the coming year to be spent in three areas: campaigning against further growth at Gatwick, both intensification of use of the main runway and the proposed development of the emergency runway, arguing for a ban on (or reduction in) night flights and ensuring that the modernisation of flights paths used by Gatwick properly assesses all options and that all communities are properly consulted. We will also continue to do everything we can to ensure that all Gatwick's environmental impacts are reduced and effectively managed, using our seats on the airport's Consultative Committee, GATCOM, and its NMB Executive Board.

## Night flights

Part 2 of the government's consultation on night flights closes on 31 May 2021. GACC has submitted a full response which is on our website [\[here\]](#) and we encourage members to respond if you haven't already done so. Please feel free to draw on our response, but it's always better to use your own words where possible. We've also prepared a two page summary response, which is [\[here\]](#), for those who would like to respond but are short of time. The consultation itself is [\[here\]](#).

## Call for a moratorium on airport expansion

Gatwick is one of at least eight airports currently pursuing plans to expand. On 10 May GACC joined with campaign groups from other areas to call for a moratorium on airport expansion. In a joint letter to the Secretaries of State for Transport and Housing, Communities and Local Government, we argued that airport expansion is inconsistent with the government's new approach to controlling aviation emissions and the formal advice from the Committee on Climate Change.

We said it would be wholly wrong to allow any airport to expand until the industry has shown it can genuinely reduce its emissions and its other adverse impacts, such as noise and congestion, and that airport expansion at Gatwick or elsewhere should be off the agenda for the foreseeable future. The joint letter is available [\[here\]](#).

## Airspace modernisation

As reported in our last newsletter, we expect Gatwick to recommence its airspace modernisation plans in the coming months. The current position is that the airport has

agreed a Statement of Need and Design Principles with the airspace regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority. The next stage in the process is for Gatwick to develop airspace Design Options. These will set out, for example, where aircraft might fly in the future, how dispersed or concentrated they would be and how quickly they would ascend. We expect the airport to identify a range of options, which it must then consult on publicly. At this stage we don't know what options will be considered or how and when the consultation will take place, but we will keep members informed.

GACC is involved in two pieces of work that will feed in to airspace modernisation. Locally, the Noise Management Board will shortly commission a study into arrival options, which we will monitor. At the national level we are working with other community and environmental groups to try to ensure that the regulatory and policy foundations of the wider modernisation programme are fit for purpose, engaging extensively with the Department for Transport and the CAA. Our current view is that the benefits of modernisation will accrue very largely to the aviation industry, with benefits for communities being limited or non-existent, and we are working to redress that balance.

### **Aviation taxation**

We are developing a response to the Treasury's consultation on Air Passenger Duty (which closes on 14 June) and will share that with members shortly. The consultation is [\[here\]](#).

### **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](#).

### **GACC contact details**

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