

Airspace and Noise Engagement Group – 20 July 2020

Attendees:	
Harvey Anderson- DfT (Secretary)	Andrew Lambourne- Community groups
Ian Elston- DfT (Chair)	Rupinder Pamme- AOA
Jonathan Friel – DfT	Martin Peachey- Community Groups
Ian Greene- DfT	Barbra Perata-Smith- CAA
Alice MacFarlan – DfT	Jeremy Pine- SASIG
Tim May- DfT (Chair for items 3-8)	John Stewart- Community groups
Matt Million DfT	Paula Street- UKACCS
Kirsty Witherford DfT	Chris Carter- BA/airlines
	Apologies:
Jeff Bevan- AOA	Neil Robinson- MAG
Keith Bushell- Airbus	Charles Lloyd- Community groups
Chris Cain- SASIG	Christopher Snelling (AOA)
Robin Clark- NATS	
Stephen Cooke- ICCAN	
Sam Hartley- ICCAN	
Graham Hill- AICES	
Andy Jefferson- Sustainable Aviation	
Tim Johnson- AEF	
Kay Jones- CAA	
Ian Jopson- NATS	

Agenda item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were made and roll call taken as well as acknowledging apologies from those not in attendance. Ian Elston (IE) chaired the meeting and will continue to do so in the future. IE noted that the group had not met since January due to COVID-19 and that this was the first time we had used video conferencing to facilitate ANEG.

Agenda item 2: Update from ICCAN

Sam Hartley (SH) presented ICCAN’S updated plans for the year which have been altered due to COVID-19. Reports due to be released in April have been postponed while the Corporate Strategy was released in June. Report on Metrics released last week whilst ICCAN was also hoping to release a toolkit for consulting on airspace changes over the coming weeks.

SH informed the group that Ipsos MORI had carried out a survey regarding aviation noise pre and post lockdown. 2000 residents from five airports across the UK took part in the survey with the aim of capturing what peoples’ views are on noise and the impact lockdown has had on these views. Paula Stewart (PS) asked what the 5 airports were (SH) informed her and the group that Heathrow, Gatwick, East Midlands, Birmingham and Edinburgh were the airports chosen. Andrew Lambourne (AL) urged Sam to include Luton Airport as part of the survey due to the airport’s growth and issues with regulations in the past. SH noted this but replied that the survey had been done and the decision had been made to go with the other airports on this occasion, however, they will be happy to consider Luton in the future.

John Stewart (JS) asked about timing regarding the report on a new survey of aviation noise and when will the survey take place. SH responded that while this report was initially scheduled for Autumn of this year- this is now looking less likely due to COVID delays. For the study itself, an advisory board will need to take place,

procurement arrangements need to be considered, and field work will need to take place next summer. It is not clear if this will be a suitable time to carry out work due to current state of the sector.

Martin Peachey (MP) asked for update regarding the action from the previous meeting on establishing ToRS. SH informed MP and the rest of the group that these had been published and placed on their website.

AL noted that ICCAN's remit involved influencing towards best practice in conveying noise information during consultations, rather than just how to parameterise it. SH acknowledged that this was still on the roadmap.

Agenda item 3: Actions and matters from previous ANEG

Tim May (TM) introduced the topic and noted that the draft minutes from our previous meeting in January had been reissued prior to the meeting and that members had a week to suggest any amendments prior to the minutes being finalised.

TM then proceeded to address the actions from the previous meeting.

1. Discussion of compensation for airspace changes- This is part of wider aviation strategy which has been paused due to COVID so no progress on this front.
2. Ensure ministers are aware of reclassification review- It was raised with ministers but they were content for current arrangements to remain as they were.
3. Action for Charles Lloyd to write to minister setting out why he thought it was appropriate to make funds available for communities to access expert advice and make informed responses on issues- Charles Lloyd wasn't in attendance but not believed he has done this.
4. ICCAN to update ANEG members on how they can be involved in the process to develop ToRS for a SoNA- SH has done this.
5. Kay Jones to update on noise and health- Presentation will take place later on in the agenda
6. DfT to share details of Government funding for the aviation sector- TM drew attention to the very wide scope of this question, particularly in light of COVID-related support, and asked if this was still of interest to members.

MP remarked that the original request still obtained concerning sharing details of Government funding but that a further issue arose which is the lack of resources available to local communities, and also probably local authorities, for funding and technical expertise. AL stated that generally speaking, community representatives don't receive assistance to help respond to consultations that are complex.

Agenda item 4: DFT update : Airspace Modernisation and noise policy.

Alice MacFarlan (AM) provided update on airspace modernisation. AM stated that Government welcomed ACOG's recent report and that the Government still supports modernisation, however, timings were now different due to COVID-19 and that there would be further updates in the autumn.

Action DFT- Update on Airspace modernisation at next meeting

AL remarked that FASl airspace change involves all players in the same airspace progressing together at the same time. AL stated he didn't see enough of this in the ACOG report and that the root of many issues around London comes from Heathrow's and other airports sharing airspace and that it was important to prioritise the toughest community issues. AM made the point that ACOG brought together relevant bodies and that modernisation relies on airports coming to the table.

TM provided update on noise policy development. Work on the Green paper proposals had got to a 'mature place' but had paused due to COVID. Expected that an aviation 'recovery plan' will be published in the autumn which would take stock of COVID impacts. This document was not expected to set out noise policies which would follow afterwards, though timing was currently uncertain.

JF explained that the plan was to launch a first stage consultation on night flights at designated airports and night flights in a national context. Still hoping to have a two-stage process with the first stage taking place in fourth quarter of the year. First stage consultation will include a proposal to carry-over the exist regime for a short period. This is necessary for legal reasons relating to consultation and notification requirements, but it will also provide an opportunity for the impacts of COVID 19 to be better understood before making a longer-term decision. The consultation will also seek views on a wide range of options for longer-term night flight policy.

TM remarked that 2019 would be a suitable baseline for night flights as this year will be an anomaly.

JS stated that a number of principles contained in the green paper proposals were welcomed by communities and that they didn't want to lose them.

PS asked for an update regarding the work taking place at DEFRA (IGCB(N)) in relation to the WHO guidance. Ian Greene (IG) informed PS and the group that work is still ongoing and that a revised timetable for the steering group that meets normally once to every six to nine months is in the pipeline. Clearer update could be provided at the next ANEG.

Action for DFT- Update on working being carried out by DEFRA.

Agenda item 5: CAA update

Barbra Perata Smith (BPS) provided an update regarding the CAA and documents recently published, including a draft guidance on the Proposed Criteria for Assessing and Accepting an Airspace Change Masterplan (CAP 1887). The consultation with a range of stakeholders closed at the end of June, and received some 100 responses. These responses are still under review, however, clear theme that some stakeholders want to know how the appeal will go regarding 3rd runway at Heathrow and the traffic forecast as a result of COVID-19. CAA will spend summer reviewing this information.

BPS also provided update on airspace classification consultation. CAA had designed a draft procedure for reviewing and amending the classification of airspace. This came from the new directions that CAA was given by the SoS in Oct 2019 which required CAA to review airspace classifications and, where appropriate, amend these, with a process that had to be in place by Dec 2020. The new directions were borne out of a GA review that was designed to ensure that the amount of controlled airspace was the minimum required to maintain safety and that the needs of airspace users were all fairly accounted for. First consulted with stakeholders to ask for suggestions as to which volumes of airspace could be suitable for changes, which received hundreds of responses and was greatly appreciated. They are now consulting on the draft procedure, which will allow a range of different factors to be taken into account before proceeding. This will be a useful tool for CAA to use for the AMS programme when they get to the point of integrating new airspace users. The consultation is open until 17 Sep 2020 and includes an infographic that summarises the key points in a concise and visual way. BPS happy to take further questions at the meeting as well as via email after its conclusion.

TM asked whether there will be engagement activities prior to the end of consultation in September? BPS will take this back to the team at the CAA

Action for BPS- Provide update on CAA engagement activities.

Agenda item 6: Update from members

Ian Jopson provided a presentation regarding Sustainable Aviation work.

TM informed the group that Geoff Clark had left Virgin due to restructuring around COVID-19.

KB revealed plans that are in place to develop a Jet Zero aircraft. ATI have launched 'FlyZero' a project which makes use of regional aircraft technology and could support 70 passengers. There is also the ZEROe Airbus project using hydrogen aircraft with 3 potential demonstrators being evaluated.

Jeremy Pine (JP) stated that SASIG were looking to make some outputs by Autumn this year on the local economic impacts of Covid around airports. PS noted that Heathrow Community Engagement Board were producing a study with Oxford Economics and suggested this could be a useful contact for SASIG to use.

BPS said CAA were doing work on sharing information with consumers on impact of aviation and carbon. KB questioned how carbon impacts would be measured and suggested that CAA ensured there was level playing field in the work they carry out which gave recognition to other sources of carbon

Agenda Item 7: Noise and Health presentation from Kay Jones CAA

Kay Jones (KJ) from the CAA provided a presentation from CAA concerning research on noise and its relation to an individual's health. Slides and full presentation will be sent out to members.

MP called for more studies on noise and health as well as source specific analysis which included the impact of wind turbines etc as well as separating out road and train noise. MP asked if this was taking place?

KJ referenced other noise studies which will be publicised at future conferences including Internoise, Euro Noise and ICBen. CAA will publish next report in September.

AL asked whether it was possible to separate the effects of air pollution (ref the King's College work on Heathrow pollution reaching central London) from the effects of noise on health. KJ acknowledged that this was a key point.

Action for CAA- Provide further update on noise and health at next ANEG.

Agenda Item 8: Meeting close

TM brought the meeting to a close after no pieces of other business were raised. It was agreed that this format had been a success and it was unclear whether it may or may not be used again in future due to the ever-evolving situation. Intention to hold next meeting sometime in the Autumn. A key agenda item might be night flights, if the consultation is out by then.