

# GACC NEWSLETTER

Number 138 JAN 2024

Dear Members

A Happy New Year to all our Members and readers.  
And its no surprise we kicking off the New Year with a great deal happening.

## DCO application

Many of you are aware the Planning Inspectorate have now issued their timetable for the Examination hearings for the Gatwick DCO.

Their letter, referred to as the Rule 6 Letter can be viewed [here](#)

The **6th February** is the deadline to register to have your say at the initial meetings and to submit your views (written representations) to the Government's planning inspectors. This deadline applies to engagement with any of the meetings and processes up to and including 7<sup>th</sup> March. The Rule 6 Letter contains a total of 10 deadlines up to 27<sup>th</sup> August which is the proposed closing date of the examination overall.

We'll be briefing on what we perceive is the process and timetable and advising where we think you or your organisation may need to Register to appear or submit further representations.

To assist members we are holding three online briefings in January via Zoom. Register by clicking the link following the date.

These will be held on the following dates :

Wed 17 Jan at 1830 Register [Here](#)

Mon 22nd Jan at 1800 Register [Here](#)

Tue 23rd Jan at 1930 Register [Here](#)

If you have any questions you'd like us to consider it would help if you could submit them to us in advance.

Please email to [info@gacc.org.uk](mailto:info@gacc.org.uk) and head the subject line Briefing Meetings Q.

## GAL's Supplemental Application

Since submitting its Northern Runway plans to the Planning Inspectorate, London Gatwick has refined its proposal and identified three changes. This has opened a further consultation which closes on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

The proposed variations have little or no impact on the overall scheme but we are submitting the following comments.

There is a leaflet explaining the proposed changes and how to respond if you wish to do so [here](#).

Project Change 1: Increase to the design parameters for the North Terminal International Departure Lounge proposed southern extension.

GACC - No Comment

Project Change 2: Reduction in the height and change in the purpose of the replacement

Central Area Recycling Enclosure (CARE) facility. This change proposes to amend the replacement CARE facility to become a waste sorting facility only. Instead, waste material will be taken off-airport to dedicated waste processing centre(s) rather than being processed on site. This also comprises the removal of two biomass boilers and an associated flue of up to 48 metres.

GACC - The removal of the 50m chimney and its potentially carcinogenic exhaust fumes may be a benefit however this is countered by the potential increase in HGV vehicle movements required to remove sorted waste. GAL have stated that the number of HGV movements per week could increase from 5 to 8 by 2025 and to 15 by 2049. GAL confirmed that the waste to be taken offsite would go via the strategic road network, 46 miles away. There is concern that the air quality issue is simply moved 46 miles to other residents. This could be mitigated with increased use of alternatively fuelled vehicles.

Project Change 3: Revision to the Water Treatment Works system. Proposed to change the system to a constructed wetland (reed bed) solution, as a more sustainable solution for water treatment. Six reed bed areas are proposed, comprising a mix of wetland vegetation species to create a variety of habitat types.

GACC - Question to the adequacy of the reed beds to cope with the probably increase in runoff the project will generate.

GAL are requested to ensure advances in technology that remove the use by airlines operating at Gatwick of de-icing fluids will be encouraged to ensure the highest environmentally friendly result.

### **Airspace Modernisation update (FASI-S)**

In our last Newsletter (138) we commented on our dissatisfaction with Gatwick and their proposed submission to the CAA of their desired FASI-S routes. Gatwick declined to respond further and submitted accordingly. Since then we have pressured the the CAA for a meeting to discuss our concerns. This was initially refused however working in conjunction with other groups and the NMB the CAA have agreed a meeting in early February to discuss the position. We'll naturally feed back the results after that meeting.

### **Noise Management Board**

We submitted extensive views on the NMB and on the changes that would be needed for any future board to be effective both to the consultants Gatwick appointed last Autumn and to the airport itself. We also wrote to the CEO, Stewart Wingate, asking for a meeting on plans for a new board. That request was refused.

GAL subsequently held a "briefing" on its plans for a third term of the NMB on 11 December. The briefing told us virtually nothing new about Gatwick's plans. They did, however, commit to circulating a report on its plans before Christmas but nothing has yet been received.

Gatwick has said that any new board will not be in place until Autumn 2024.

### **Night Flight Consultation**

This was due in the autumn of 2023 together with the results of the DfT consultation on Night Flights in general held earlier in 2023. We understand that the publication of the results of that consultation are due to be signed off by the Minister at the end of January and the consultation for the next allocation of Night Slots will commence

shortly afterwards. This does not bode well for agreement to be in place for slots for the next period from October 2025 onwards. The possibility of yet again another roll over of the current limits and slots raises its head.

### **Gatwick Operations**

It seems that as at the end of December Gatwick's movement numbers were still marginally behind the pre-pandemic 2019 figures (at around 95%). However the proportion of night movements whilst still within limits is around 20% higher.

### **GACC**

Whilst we expect the greatest need for fundraising will be later, we do have spending during the DCO consultation so would be grateful for financial support. If you would like to donate to GACC please click [here](#) and if you're not a member please join us (see below).

### **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**

Email: [info@gacc.org.uk](mailto:info@gacc.org.uk)

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