

# GACC NEWSLETTER

Number 136

May 2023

## **Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC) Annual General Meeting**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2023**

**at 7pm**

**To be held at:**

**Stanhill Court Hotel, Stan hill, Charlwood RH6 0EP**

**Guest Speaker:**

**Dr. Alex Chapman, Senior Researcher,  
New Economics Foundation**

Dear Members

GACC's Annual General Meeting will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> June. In addition to our normal AGM agenda we have as our guest speaker Dr Alex Chapman from the New Economics Foundation. Alex is recognised as an expert analyst with significant experience in aviation and environmental fields and he has previously authored a report for GACC challenging Gatwick's economic claims for its northern runway project (read the report [here](#)).

As always, members of the public are very welcome to attend what we're sure will be a highly informative event. We look forward to seeing you all on the 5<sup>th</sup>. An agenda for the meeting together with GACC's financial statement for 2022/23 will be circulated prior to the meeting. If you would like to put your name forward to be a member of GACC's Committee please do get in touch.

Meanwhile an update on our recent activities.

### **DCO consultation application date further delayed**

Gatwick have been indicating since last year that its application for a Development Consent Order to expand the airport by making routine use of its standby runway would be submitted in late March or early April of this year.

Finally, at last week's GATCOM meeting, Gatwick announced that the expected submission date would be late June.

They indicated that the delay was partly due to the host local authorities (these are the ten local authorities around the airport who are statutory consultees) requesting more information and more time. This is somewhat contradicted by the local authorities who indicate they have been requesting some of the information for nigh on two years!

Gatwick have indicated that the submission consists of over 200 volumes of which around half relate to environmental matters. We continue to liaise with the relevant local authorities and have made them aware, in very clear terms, of our views on the inadequacy of Gatwick's consultation to date and the unacceptability of any growth at the airport.

### **Airspace modernisation**

Gatwick continue to hold local consultations on the FASI programme and, after some pressure from GACC and local authorities, extended the consultation to parish councils in the impacted area. (There are some 96 parish councils and Gatwick had at last count engaged with 60 +). We have been pushing Gatwick to ensure that the next stage of the consultation includes mapping which allows proper identification of communities (which has been lacking so far), adequate definitions of acronyms and technical terms and flight path options that disperse noise so the burden is fairly shared. We remain concerned that Gatwick may favour options that concentrate noise over selected communities and have not adequately considered dispersal.

### **Noise Management Board**

In our last newsletter we mentioned that we had written to Gatwick's CEO in November, 2022 with our concerns and our suggestion that the NMB be reviewed immediately. We finally received a response in late February 2023 that indicated Gatwick were not going to change the timetable in place for the NMB and the review would take place as scheduled later in 2023. We intend to participate robustly in that process.

### **Noise envelopes at Gatwick**

Until the DCO application is submitted we will have no further input on the Noise Envelope nor are aware of what proposals Gatwick are putting forward for the DCO.

### **Consultations**

There have been two DfT consultations:

2040 Zero Emissions Airport Targets  
Night Time Noise Abatement Objectives

Both of these relate to proposed policy and our responses to these consultations will be available on our website shortly.

### **Gatwick Operations**

Flight and passenger numbers continue to rise and as at Easter this year Gatwick declared it was operating at 86% of 2019 levels. Gatwick also announced a profit at its year-end of £196.50 million.

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### **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)

Website: <http://www.gacc.org.uk>

Twitter: [@GCgatwick](https://twitter.com/GCgatwick)