

THE LONDON HELIPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

Agenda for the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 14th June 2017 at 7.00 p.m. at The Town Hall (**Room 123**), Wandsworth High Street, SW18 2PU

MEMBERS

Chairman

Councillor Maighread Condon-Simmonds – Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (Chelsea Riverside Ward)

Users' representatives

Capt Ian Field
Capt Michael Hampton
Capt Robin Renton
Capt John Roberts

Residents' representatives

Hammersmith and Fulham

Ms Christina Smyth

Kensington and Chelsea

Ms Eryl Humphrey-Jones

Wandsworth

Mr David Brown
Mr William (Bill) Harper

Local Authority Representatives

Hammersmith and Fulham

Councillor Larry Culhane (North End Ward)

Kensington and Chelsea

Councillor Maighread Condon-Simmonds (Chelsea Riverside Ward)

Wandsworth

Councillor Tony Belton (Latchmere Ward)
Councillor Rosemary Torrington (Thamesfield Ward)

Refreshments

Sandwich refreshments will be available for members of the Consultative Group in the Committee Room (Room 123), prior to the meeting.

Contact:

Martin Newton (Secretary to the Consultative Group),
Chief Executive's Group,
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6th June 2017

AGENDA

1. Chairmanship of the Group's Meetings

The LHCG are asked to note that, in line with the previously approved arrangements for chairmanship of meetings, the Chairman for the meetings to be held during the 2017/18 municipal year will be Councillor Condon-Simmonds (Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea).

2. Minutes - 23rd January 2017

(Pages 5 - 8)

The Group are asked to approve the draft minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd January 2017 (Attached – Paper A).

The draft minutes were circulated to all members of the Group and to all on the circulation list for Group papers, and have been published on the Council's website.

Upon approval, the minutes will be signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

The Chairman will then invite members to raise any matters arising from the minutes.

3. Monitoring of Helicopter Noise Levels

Colin Stanbury and Dr Stephen Dance (South Bank University) will update the Group on the latest position regarding monitoring of helicopter noise levels and on the proposed residents' online questionnaire.

4. Information on Helicopter Movements

(Pages 9 - 10)

Summary information on helicopter movements at London Heliport in Quarter 1 of 2017, provided by Simon Hutchins (Heliport Manager), is included herewith for information. (Attached - Paper B).

5. Noise Complaints

(Pages 11 - 14)

Information on noise complaints received by the Heliport in Quarters 1 and 2 (April and May only) of 2017 and on the action taken in response, provided by Simon Hutchins, is included herewith for information. (Attached – Papers C and D).

6. **Heliport Flights after 10.00pm**

To consider concerns raised by residents about flights to the Heliport after 10.00pm resulting in disturbance.

The Heliport's approved hours of operation are 07.00am to 11.00pm and residents have reported that often in the later evening the Heliport's lights are turned off but are then reactivated to receive a regular flight after 10.00pm.

7. **DfT Consultation - National Policy Statement (NPS) and Airspace Strategy**

Colin Stanbury will update the Group on the recent Department for Transport (DfT) consultation.

8. **Update on Section 35 Designation**

Since its establishment in 2006, the Group have been of the view that the Heliport should be designated under Section 35 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 as this would build on and strengthen the sustainability of the current LHCG consultation arrangements, helping to ensure that the Heliport and stakeholders are meaningfully consulted on all future aviation matters affecting it, acknowledging the Heliport's role in terms of its place in the UK airport infrastructure, and providing the opportunity for aviation officials to be invited on a regular basis to the Group's meetings and a greater level of communication and briefing for members on relevant issues.

In 2014, the Group were informed by the DfT that the intention was that work involved in updating the list of designated airports, which would include the possibility of adding new ones to the list such as the Heliport, would start to be 'scoped out' but that there was no timeline for the process at that stage, pending consideration of the necessary steps that would need to be taken.

The DfT has now confirmed that no further consideration has yet been given to which aerodromes should be designated for the purposes of S.35 but that, prior to the announcement of a General Election, the Government was planning a new Aviation Strategy to replace the Aviation Policy Framework. Subject to the views of Ministers in the new Government, a future Aviation Strategy may offer the opportunity for further thinking about how the impacts of General Aviation on communities should be managed in the future.

The Group are asked to note the contents of this report.

9. **Any Other Business**

The Chairman will ask members of the Group whether there are any other matters they wish to raise.

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

The Group are asked to determine the date of their next meeting.

THE LONDON HELIPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

Minutes of the meeting of the London Heliport Consultative Group held at the Town Hall, Wandsworth, SW18 2PU on Monday, 23rd January 2017 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT

Chairman

Councillor Torrington (Wandsworth Borough Council)

Residents' representatives

David Brown (Battersea Reach Residents' Association – LB Wandsworth)
Christina Smyth (LB Hammersmith and Fulham)

Users' representatives

Capt Ian Field (Starspeed)
Capt John Roberts (National Police Air Service)

Observers, advisers and officers

Councillor Leonie Cooper (Wandsworth Borough Council / London Assembly
Member for Merton and Wandsworth)
Simon Hutchins (The London Heliport)
Colin Stanbury (Wandsworth Borough Council)
Martin Newton (Wandsworth Borough Council)
Guy Denington (Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea)
Ian Stephenson (Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea)
Dr Stephen Dance (London South Bank University)
Tim Fauchon (British Helicopter Association)

1 resident was also present.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Culhane (Hammersmith and Fulham Borough Council), Councillor Belton (Wandsworth Borough Council) and Capt Michael Hampton (Capital Air Services).

Minutes - 20th October 2016

On item 1, the minutes of the previous meeting were noted and the following matters were raised:-

- (a) The Chairman referred to a further breakdown of flight movements into different categories for greater transparency and Simon Hutchins confirmed

that the Heliport Board considered this request from the LHCG and had decided that it was unable to agree to releasing this information.

The Chairman referred to the 12,000 annual cap on flight movements and said that it would be of more use to see the full picture of flights with a more specific breakdown than that offered. Simon Hutchins informed the meeting that the figures reported in the agenda for 2016 were slightly overstated due to an error in the previously reported figures for quarter 2, which should have been 3,235 (not 3,276), making the 2016 yearly total 11,352 (not 11,393). It was noted that police, military, air ambulance, Government VIPs and Royal Family movements do not count against the 12,000 cap.

In response to a question from the Chairman, Colin Stanbury confirmed that he had been unable to locate specific information on the CAA website about the heliport that would give a clearer indication to the LHCG of the position on specific movements. Simon Hutchins said that the heliport's movements are not reported to the CAA in that way and related to the different ways flights to or from the heliport are handled under air traffic control.

Christina Smyth expressed her frustration over the heliport's refusal to provide additional information on movements, which she said was unsatisfactory and made it difficult for the Group to carry out its consultative role and to help improve the situation for residents. She raised the question of reporting back to the three local authorities to ensure they are aware of the situation. The Chairman, Councillor Torrington said that the views of the LHCG would be communicated to the Leader of Wandsworth Council, Councillor Govindia and that he was already aware of the heliport's position on providing additional information on movements, and other issues around the heliport's involvement with the planned noise study, and had indicated concerns.

In response to a suggestion from the Chairman that the Mayor of London also be alerted, Councillor Leonie Cooper (attending in her London Assembly member role) said that she had been contacted by residents regarding the heliport and that the issue could be referred on.

- (b) The Secretary confirmed that he had contacted the DfT for an update on possible section 35 designation for the heliport and that a reply was awaited.

Membership of the LHCG

On item 2, the Chairman referred to the appointment of Bill Harper to the LHCG – unfortunately he was unable to attend the meeting due to a family funeral in the USA.

Monitoring of Helicopter Noise Levels

On item 3, Colin Stanbury again welcomed Dr Stephen Dance to the meeting and told the Group that work had continued on the proposed noise monitoring study and that this had culminated in the development, design and production of equipment for the study.

Dr Stephen Dance confirmed that, in conjunction with Foster and Partners and assisted with a Government grant, a device had been produced that provided real time data. The device would be going into 30 schools in Wandsworth as an educational tool but would also be used in residential homes as part of the study. The equipment is 'plug in and go' and does not require wi fi. If a power supply problem occurred the device would just re-start when the supply came back on. Dr Dance said that the device had a 10k radius and would record 'what, when and how noisy'.

Dr Dance confirmed that the device would be used to record 'noise energy' indoors (and a spare room would be ideal but not the only option), whilst certified calibrated readings would also be taken for the study outside. The plan was for noise measurements to be taken inside dwellings between mid-February and mid-March within a 5k radius of Battersea Park. A further 6 month study would then be undertaken of noise levels outside premises closer to the heliport.

The Chairman confirmed that the London Boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Wandsworth would contribute toward the costs of the study but that unfortunately the heliport did not feel that it could agree to take part. It was noted, however, that Wandsworth intended to underwrite any shortfall and commission and manage the project on behalf of the LHCG.

Colin Stanbury said that it was important that the community 'buy-into' the project and David Brown asked for an indication of the study's overall purpose, following completion and results analysis, to assist with the engagement process. Christina Smyth put forward the view that the study would be the first step in helping to improve quality of life for those affected by noise from the heliport and in response to her suggestion the Secretary undertook to circulate a 'bullet point' summary of the study's reasons and aims to help the engagement process.

Information on Helicopter Movements

On item 4, the 2016 quarter 4 movement figures were before the Group.

During discussion, Dr Stephen Dance said that the study may be able to distinguish between sightseeing and other flights, although the Group noted Tim Fauchon's comment that the noise signature of similar aircraft may make this difficult.

Noise Complaints

On item 5, the Group noted the complaint reported and Simon Hutchins said that it was difficult to either prove or disprove the alleged delay to the flight as reported by the complainant.

Any Other Business

On item 6, the following matters were raised:-

- (a) The Chairman informed the meeting of the expected airspace consultation that would shortly take place and the intention that the LHCG would respond.

Colin Stanbury confirmed that the consultation was linked to the recent Heathrow third runway decision and was expected to be launched by the DfT / CAA within the next few weeks. Councillor Leonie Cooper expressed interest in this consultation also in view of the impact on City Airport. The Group noted Tim Fauchon's comment that there had been previous attempts to alter height restrictions that cover areas such as the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace that would have benefitted traffic using both the heliport and City Airport.

- (b) Tim Fauchon reported that the issue of the use of heli-lanes by the USAF that had been reported at the last LHCG meeting had been taken up with the CAA and confirmation had been received that this would not happen in future.

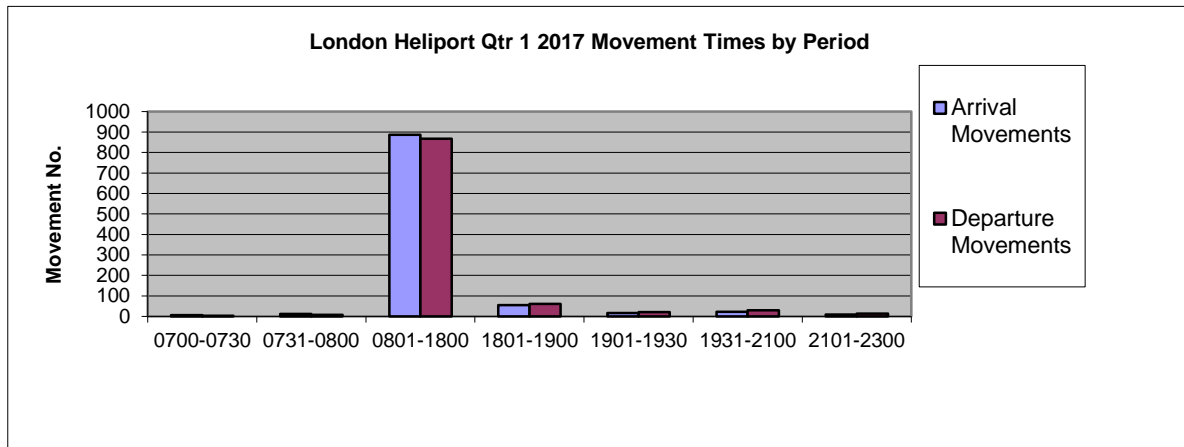
Date of Next Meeting

On item 7, the Group agreed to meet again on Monday, 15th May 2017.

The meeting ended at 7.52pm

Qtr 1 2017 Movement Time Band Breakdown

Time Band	Arrival Movements	Departure Movements	Total
0700-0730	6	4	10
0731-0800	12	8	20
0801-1800	886	868	1754
1801-1900	55	61	116
1901-1930	17	21	38
1931-2100	22	30	52
2101-2300	9	14	23
Total	1007	1006	2013



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NOISE COMPLAINTS SUMMARY Jan – Mar 2017

Complaint Reference	Date of Complaint	Time of Occurrence	Time of Complaint	Brief Details of Complaint	Brief Details of Investigation	Action Taken
01/17	6 Mar 2017	All day	N/K	Resident has been disturbed by helicopters flying low over their house causing windows to shake & cutting out phone lines. This has been over the last two weeks (Edith Terrace SW10)	No significant increase in our normal traffic or unusual routings over the period of complaint. Likely cause helicopters arriving from north of heliport and descending to join circuit over River Thames (avoiding very tall crane at Chelsea Waterfront)	Without more specific information it is difficult to identify cause. Resident also advised to contact CAA if unhappy with response so far.

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NOISE COMPLAINTS SUMMARY Apr – May 2017

Complaint Reference	Date of Complaint	Time of Occurrence	Time of Complaint	Brief Details of Complaint	Brief Details of Investigation	Action Taken
02/17	9 th May 2017	08:15	08:35	<p>Resident complained that their windows had been cracked by a low flying dark Blue helicopter today. She has been disturbed by helicopters flying low over their house causing windows to shake & cutting out phone lines. This has been over the last six months. (Edith Terrace SW10)</p> <p>N.B. Similar to complaint 01/17 but different complainant names provided</p>	<p>No aircraft meeting precise description had arrived. Seasonal increase in overall traffic including helicopters arriving from north of heliport and descending to join circuit over River Thames (avoiding very tall crane at Chelsea Waterfront)</p>	<p>An aircraft of similar description had departed slightly lower than normal but route and height not exceptional.</p>
03/17	26 th May 2016	Last two weeks	15:30	<p>Ongoing increase in noise over last two weeks. Level of noise and frequency causing vibration. (Plantation Wharf SW11)</p>	<p>Seasonal increase in overall traffic.</p>	<p>Complainant requested that be logged and asked for information about public meetings concerning noise. Referred to LHCG.</p>
04/17	11 th May 2017	22:40	18 th May 2017	<p>Late Flight and duration of engine running. Other incidences noted on previous occasions. Nature and frequency of late flights queried. (Bridges Wharf or Plantation Wharf SW11)</p>	<p>Heliport CCTV reviewed for this flight and no exceptional engine running times or delays noted.</p>	<p>Complainant advised of specific findings concerning engine running times. General frequency of late flights provided from LHCG statistics. No further detailed information provided</p>

NOISE COMPLAINTS SUMMARY **Apr – May 2017**

05/17	16 th May 2016	01:56	01:56	<p>Helicopter circling in the local area. Complainant already aware likely cause to be due to Police Air Support Unit activity and wondered if related to previous evenings football match at Chelsea FC and subsequent celebrations</p> <p>(vicinity of Fulham Broadway SW6)</p>	<p>No specific investigation made by heliport as likely to be due to Police helicopter.</p>	<p>Complainant to investigate via local police reason for helicopter operation. No further feedback provided on investigation outcome.</p>
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