

NEWSLETTER



GATWICK AREA CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

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GACC committee

I'm delighted to be able to report that at GACC's AGM, on 19th February, the people listed below were elected to its committee.

Peter Barclay, Sarah Clayton, Atholl Forbes, Gareth Hayton, Peter Jordan, Charles Lloyd, Chris Lovett, Lisa Morris, Dominic Nevill, Penny Shoubridge, Richard Streatfeild.

I believe this is an extremely strong group. It provides GACC with excellent coverage of the whole Gatwick region, reflecting our membership base. It brings together a wide range of experience and skills, and it combines people with long experience of serving on our committee with new talent.

I also believe the new committee will be able to work together effectively to address the critical challenges we face, particularly Gatwick's growth plans.

I'd like to thank everyone who attended the AGM, who helped organise it and managed the voting process, and who stood in the election. This has been a challenging and sometimes distracting process for GACC but I believe the outcome is a very positive one. I'd also like to thank Sally Pavey and Caroline Tayler for their long service on GACC's committee.

Gatwick's Big Enough (GBE) campaign update

Last year the GBE campaign, which GACC leads, wrote to all the county and district /town councils around the airport asking them to put in place arrangements to ensure all Gatwick's growth was robustly scrutinised, consulted on and subject to planning consent.

You may recall that proposed growth deriving from potential use of Gatwick's emergency runway will be subject to a planning process known as a Development Consent Order(DCO), but that the larger share of proposed growth, deriving from more intensive use of the current main runway, is not currently subject to any planning approval. We believe this is wrong in principle and against government policy (and we have written separately to the government on it).

Campaigning for a better environment for the whole area around Gatwick

GACC, founded in 1968, has as paid-up members over 50 councils and over 40 community groups. We have built a reputation for sound judgement and reliable information and thus have the support of all local Members of Parliament.

On 31st January we received the attached response from some of the councils closest to the airport. Essentially their view is that, however desirable planning consent for main runway growth might be, councils have no mechanisms under current planning law to require it. They argue that alternative agreements between the airport and councils provide a degree of control over the impacts of growth.

We are considering the councils' response and continuing to engage with them. We strongly disagree that the alternative arrangements currently in place provide effective control: in our view they are feeble. We will report further on this in due course. More encouragingly other councils have taken a more robust view on Gatwick growth and we are engaging with them too.

And some news from government:

Kelly Tolhurst MP has been appointed Aviation Minister (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State) at the DfT. She is the 6th Aviation minister in 3 years – they don't last long !

Diary Note :

PAGNE (People Against Gatwick Noise & Emissions) are holding a public meeting to raise awareness of Gatwick's proposed expansion plans. Guest speaker's include our own Charles Lloyd and Dr Tony Whitbread, former CEO and now President of Sussex Wildlife.

Friday 6th March at 7.30pm

North Hall, Loxwood Village Hall, Guildford Road, Loxwood RH14 OSF

GATCOM – the airport consultative committee on which we have a seat is next meeting on Thursday 23 April 2020 at 2.00 p.m. . The location has yet to be confirmed.