

Bournemouth Airport Consultative Committee

The Committee met on 15th November 2012 and ACRA were represented by John Mather (Highcliffe)

Paul Willis, DCC Group Manager Transport Planning, reported on planned improvements to the stretch of the B3073 from Parley Cross via Hurn to the Blackwater Junction with the A338 scheduled to be completed over the next 20 years. These *would be likely* (our italics) to include a bus lane, some widening of the road, a completely new junction outside Hurn Village, and enhancements to the Blackwater Junction itself, all of this to be funded by Manchester Airport Group and DCC.

No improvements have been identified for the B3073 from Wimborne to Parley Cross or from Blackwater Junction to Christchurch. In addition it is still planned to build a huge housing estate at Parley Cross. Whilst the developer(s) would fund some improvements to the Parley Cross junction, the total overall effect is likely to be minimal in and around the airport whilst the road into Christchurch (Hurn Road and Fairmile Road) will suffer even more than now.

The MD of Bournemouth Airport reported passenger numbers April to October 2012 up 13% on the previous year and also over budget. Summertime aircraft load factors had been high but despite that Ryanair had decided not to operate a winter programme whilst Aer Arran had reduced their winter programme and this posed financial challenge to the Airport for the financial year to March 2013. The previous “one-man-one-job” culture had been replaced by a multi-skilled team based approach with some reduction in job numbers. The CAA has given the Airport a clean bill of health in its safety audit.

The forecast for 2013-14 is for no growth over 2012-13. This is in part due to Air Passenger Duty, which is enabling European Airports to gain market share at the expense of the UK. Other potential sources of revenue are being explored.

It was noted that Manchester Airport Group had successfully acquired Stanstead Airport and there was a belief that this would help in future negotiations with airlines.

There are plans to base a Police helicopter at the Airport. Although the helicopter is believed to be reasonably quiet, it will use flight paths over the rivers and the roads such as the A338. Despite these assurances some fears have been expressed in Ferndown, St Leonards and St Ives.

The Airport management have discussed transport links with Christchurch but the bus companies are not particularly cooperative. The drop-off charge, whilst known to be unpopular, will continue.

The Aviation Business Park currently accommodates nearly 200 companies – an occupancy rate of 98%. Employers come from the fields of: Airport related businesses; Aviation and Defence; other sundry activities such as logistics. There are 3,270 employees in total. By and large employers are happy with the site overall and the services provided.

It was reported that Outline Planning Consent has been granted for the development and improvement of the Aviation Park West site. This includes a net increase of 42,000 square meters of floor space. Work would be staged over 10 years and would include flood risk mitigation, the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and some changes to the access roads. There would be a considerable increase in the numbers of jobs available on the site.