

Number 109 July 2019

## STOP PRESS !

Recent local news items have reported that Gatwick is proposing to present its finalised Master Plan later this month (we suspect at the next GATCOM meeting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July).

The Master Plan is understood to include the following proposals:

1. To **increase capacity on the main runway** by using continually improving technology.
2. To obtain permission to "reposition" the Emergency Runway to allow it to be used as a **second runway**.
3. To require the land to the south of the existing runway to continue to be safeguarded to allow a **full service runway** to be built in the future.

The Draft Master Plan is notable in its support for growth and its failure to provide any mitigation for its massive negative impacts.

GACC has recently met with most of the community groups around Gatwick, and all are determined to oppose all three proposals, combining together to do so. Once the Master Plan is published by Gatwick we will be in touch again to update you on these hugely environmentally damaging schemes, which have not just adverse local implications, but adverse global ones.

We will be in touch with a further update on the Master Plan as soon as its published.

## Other News

### GACC Changes

#### Chairman

Lisa Morris, who became Chairman in November last year, has resigned from the role for personal reasons. The GACC committee recently re-elected Peter Barclay as Chairman. Peter is a former Vice-Chairman and Chairman of GACC and is a long-standing committee member. He represents GACC on a number of bodies, including GATCOM. Peter has an aviation background and is well known locally and nationally in aviation circles; he is also a trustee of the Aviation Environment Federation.

### *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.

## **Membership**

We are part way through the task of transferring our membership database to a new format. This will provide us with a much more efficient means of communicating with members, and will ensure that membership renewals are up to date. The change over to the new system is not yet complete. If there's a member with some basic IT skills (understanding excel will be sufficient) and some time available to support this task then please get in touch.

## **Subscriptions**

With the above in mind, our year begins in May and subscriptions are now due. If you do not have a direct debit or standing order in place, and you have not yet paid your annual subscription please can you arrange a transfer directly to our bank, details of which are:

Account Name: Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign

Bank: NatWest

Sort Code: 60-11-41

Account Number: 52474119

Include your name and 'GACC Renewal' in the payment comments.

Payment by cheque is also available, full details are on our website.

The subscription rates remain unchanged at £4 for individuals and £10 for corporate members or bodies.

## **Website**

We are in the process of updating and improving the GACC website, initially to reflect recent developments. In the longer term the site will be optimised to work more readily with tablets and mobiles.

## **What is happening at Gatwick?**

### **Gatwick has been sold**

News of the potential sale of Gatwick started to circulate early last year, and various corporate buyers were rumoured to be interested. In December 2018 it was announced that Vinci, a French based global airport operator had reached an agreement with current owners Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP). Vinci Airports have subsequently completed the purchase of a 50.01% stake in the airport, GIP continuing to hold the remaining 49.99% interest.

Vinci Airports claim to be the world's leading private airport operator, managing the development and operation of forty six airports located in France, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Serbia, Cambodia, Japan, the United States, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Chile and Brazil.

Where does that leave us? Vinci will bring significant financial and airport infrastructure know how to the table, but the current Gatwick management team, lead by CEO Stuart Wingate, will remain in place as part of the deal. Better the devil you know....

### **New Gatwick Noise Line**

GACC has been fighting since 2014 to have a telephone complaints line re-instated following its removal and replacement by a Freepost service for what we considered were quite perverse reasons. It appears we have at last been listened to and Gatwick has completely overhauled its online noise and track keeping monitoring systems. The overhaul includes the provision of an automated telephone system for reporting **noise complaints (01293 311568)**.

The previous Casper website has been replaced with a new system known as Web Track. The new system appears to have some improvements as well as the phone line, including displaying the Noise Preferential Routes (NPRs) and it is to be developed further. One drawback is the time lag of 25 minutes, which Gatwick advise is caused by the need to analyse data from multiple feeds to ensure accuracy of displays. See:

<https://www.gatwickairport.com/business-community/aircraft-noise-airspace/noise-enquiries/>

### **An Important Date for your diary**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November

7pm for 7:30pm

GACC Annual General Meeting

to be held at the Stanhill Court Hotel, Stan Hill, Charlwood, RH6 0EP