

Community Action Team Meeting (CAT) 6 September 2022, Fareham Innovation Centre

Who was there?

Present Councillors: Cllr Woodward, Cllr Ford, Cllr Bull, Cllr Dugan, Cllr Hockley, Cllr Hayre, Cllr Nother, Cllr Birkett, Cllr Mandry, Cllr Ellis

Panel Members: Andrew Wannell – Deputy Chief Executive, Richard Jolley – Director of Planning & Regeneration, Sarah Ward – Head of Strategic Sites, Martyn Francis – Airport Manager at Solent Airport and Marshall Barrand – Projects Director at Regional City Airports.

Residents: approx. 120

What was talked about?

Update on the developments at Daedalus: Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Cllr Seán Woodward

Cllr Woodward gave a presentation on Daedalus covering the history, vision, finances achievements so far and the ambitions for the next 5 years including Aeronautical Ground Lighting (AGL). You can view the presentation [here](#).

Q How can airport operations become carbon neutral by 2030?

A The Council has made a commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 in the delivery of services; you can find out more information on what the Council is doing [here](#). While Regional City Airport (RCA) have the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, collaboratively the Council and RCA are working to explore how the operations at Solent Airport can be more environmentally friendly. This involves looking at operational changes such as lighting, insulation, and taxiway

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usage. Also, exploring opportunities to influence the marketplace, operators, and suppliers to use more efficient fuel which will aid operational integrity.

Q When you state 'flight movements' to reach 36,000 per year at Solent Airport, does this include circuits?

A The measure we use for aircraft movements mainly consists of take-off and landings. Therefore, if you take off and land that is regarded as 2 movements. (Touch and Goes, Go-arounds are also counted as movements as they use the runway, one touch and go (T'n'G) equates to 2 movements). The number of circuits flown is not recorded.

Q We have persistently complained about the circuit path at Solent Airport impacting us residents. We are concerned that the 2 extra hours of flying that the AGL will provide is only going to exasperate the issue. Flying circuits over residential housing is the biggest problem, it causes distress, noise pollution and health impacts.

A From 5 September, the trial for runway 23 began, this mirrors runway 05. It is being trialled for one month in order to understand the potential benefits enabled. RCA are also in talks with Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) about airspace over Fleetlands which could offer a different approach from the North.

Q The issue of the recent reported Airprox with the Coastguard and Spitfire was raised.

A The Coastguard was mandated to file an Airprox due to the Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) alert. However, it was investigated and the report concludes that all safety concerns were satisfactory and there was no risk of collision

Q Low visibility flying is not allowed in Class G airspace because you have to be able to see what is around you. Is Class G airspace changing over Solent?

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A The class of airspace does not matter if the pilot is qualified to fly in those conditions. If the pilot is qualified to fly Instrument Flight Rules (IFR), and the airport has AGL then they can fly in class G airspace. It is the pilot's limitations not the airspace around them.

Q I would like to know more about the Freeport license you have applied for.

A We have not applied for any Freeport license or anything similar. I have written to the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership to ask why, when there is a Freeport across South Hampshire, it has not been applied to Solent Airport.

Q Who grants permission for 10 flights to take off between 6pm and 12am? And will these flights be scheduled or unscheduled?

A The Planning consent is what covers flight movements, it imposes the restriction of up to 40,000 movements a year and the 10 flights before midnight. This is imposed by Fareham Borough Council as Local Planning Authority. As it stands, it is most likely to be unscheduled flights. However, until we market it and understand the demand and resources, this remains speculative.

Q Do you agree that the increase in flights at Solent Airport has had an impact on the price of housing in the area?

A No I do not agree.

Q You say there is no cost to the taxpayers for the running of the airfield but there is because the airside is running at a loss and being cross subsidised. That is money that could be returned to Fareham council taxpayers. How are you working for the benefit of Fareham Borough taxpayers?

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A The airside and wider Daedalus operations cannot be divorced, they must be taken as a whole entity. There are many businesses that rely on the airside and would not be here if airside was not a component to the site. Without it, the money generated would be significantly less.

Q I am pro the airport and while someone raised a good point about the circuits flying over residential homes, pilots need to learn to fly somewhere. The airport is a positive business venture.

A Thank you for your comment.

Q I would like to continue talking about the impact of noise on residents. The Council and airport management should require pilots to stick to the strategic gap and noise abate.

A If anything can be done to respond to residents' concerns, RCA as Airport Operator need to investigate it. We look forward to hearing your feedback on the new circuit. I am also still waiting to have data back concerning the particular circuits – whether they were being flown solo by trainee pilots or with an instructor.

Q As someone who enjoys the beach and has grandchildren. My concern is the safety aspect of the airfield and what kind of emergency planning is in place.

A RCA regularly liaise with the emergency services. RCA have strong measures in place that are well documented. With regard to maintenance of aircraft; no matter what size are regulated and assessed regularly. Please rest assured that the aircrafts flying here are checked. All RCA can do is prepare just in case.

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