

Local Focus Forum meeting Tuesday 27 February 2018, Compass Centre (Amended)

In attendance:

Residents

Stan Woods	Longford Residents Association
Jane Taylor	HASRA
Mike Raynor	Colnbrook resident/campaigner
Kathleen Croft	Stanwell Moor Residents Association
Peter Hood	Colnbrook Residents Association
Anup Babuta	Colnbrook Parish Council
Sean Kelly	Colnbrook Residents Association
Gurpal Viridi	London Borough of Hounslow
Christine Taylor	HASRA
Armelle Thomas	HASRA/Friends of the Barn
Eilish Stone	HASRA
Nigel Mells	The Pavillion Association
Elaine Mells	The Pavillion Association
Marian Rough	Stanwell Community Group

Heathrow

Rob Gray	Director of Community and Stakeholder Relations
Cheryl Monk	Head of Community Relations
Kaimi Ithia	Senior Community Relations Manager
Glenn Tobin	Community Relations Manager

Representatives for HCEB

Kevin Murray	Kevin Murray Associates, Independent Consultant to HCEB
Jas Atwal	Kevin Murray Associates, Independent Consultant to HCEB
Hilary Degnan	Pegasus, Independent Consultant to HCEB

Apologies

CLlr June Nelson	LB of Hillingdon
Jean and Philip Purcell	Longford
Graham Young	Richings Park Residents Assn
Veronica and Phil Rumsey	Friends of the Barn

1. Welcome and apologies

Rob Gray (RG) opened the meeting and welcomed members. He gave apologies -noted above. RG announced that Gerry Ceasar had sadly passed away recently. Gerry had sat on a number of Heathrow forums for many decades and was well known to many members of the LFF. Members expressed their sadness at this news.

2. Heathrow Community Engagement Board (HCEB)

Cheryl Monk (CM) welcomed Kevin Murray and his colleagues who were attending on behalf of the HCEB. She gave a short update on progress with the appointment of an independent Chair and said an announcement would be made later in March. In the meantime, she explained that independent planning consultants that have been appointed by the HCEB Delivery Group to develop and deliver an interim work programme. CM explained the next session was being run by them and Heathrow colleagues offered to leave the session but members were happy for them to stay.

Below are the notes of session with the Local Focus Forum, facilitated by Kevin Murray, for and on behalf of the HCEB.

The session began with all attendees introducing themselves.

Kevin provided an overview presentation on the evolution of the HACC into the HCEB and its role, including the appointment of a new Chairperson. He explained the appointment, through Planning Aid England, of Kevin Murray Associates (KMA) and Pegasus as independent consultants to the HCEB.

Kevin then facilitated a discussion with the LFF, prompted by the following questions:

What drew you to live/be there?

What was/is positive about living there?

What needs improving?

What is your relationship with Heathrow?

What was/is your experience of the engagement process so far?

The responses to these questions have been reported here under the following headings:

Local issues

- Strong feelings from LFF members who are at risk of losing their homes
- Disruption from aircraft flying over from 4am and not finishing until 9pm
- Important that there is alternation of runways
- Noise doesn't just come through the windows and doors, but through the roof too
- £19,000 paid to residents by HAL to upgrade windows and doors, and yet those houses are still going to be demolished – it seems such a waste of time and money
- Promises were made that the airport wouldn't move any further north than it is now
- Nobody is making a decision, so it's difficult for residents to plan or move forward, to either invest in properties, decide to move, scatter the ashes of loved ones
- Constant promises that are broken by Heathrow
- Residents struggling to sell their properties due to the threat of expansion
- Some people are moving away because they are not certain of what's going to happen. It has changed the social composition of the area.
- More and more houses are rented out and becoming HMOs, e.g. in Harmondsworth
- Heathrow/Government are buying properties to safeguard/ring-fence area for use in the expansion
- There is a real eyesore in Harmondsworth that belongs to HAL. It is the only ward in Hillingdon that doesn't have a library

- Locally there are no facilities or services such as a pharmacy or community hubs
- At public inquiry at Colnbrook, the Inspector deemed Colnbrook to be unfit for family accommodation. It was akin to a dormitory village
- The village atmosphere has gone
- Heathrow is blighting the area
- 718 homes to be demolished (N.B. Heathrow states that there are **752** residential properties identified within the proposed compulsory purchase zone in Longford and parts of Harmondsworth, Sipson and Stanwell. In addition, up to a further **20** residential properties which could also be impacted by some of the options that were consulted on in 2018. The Airports Commission's assessment of Heathrow's scheme concluded that **783** homes would need to be compulsorily acquired – and the Government continues to use these figures. The difference in the total figures is because the Airports Commission took a different approach to local road changes, allowing a wide band of property demolition around the diverted roads. We anticipate that these changes could be accommodated without the need to acquire all these additional homes.)
- There seem to be different approaches to compensation
- Heathrow villages were here a long time before the Airport – the villages are part of the Doomsday Book
- Birmingham was a hamlet. Recognition by some that things do change

Heathrow Expansion

- Frustration at the wording – there may not be a second consultation – it is presented as though the expansion is a fait accompli
- The airport is too big already
- Gatwick has been suggested as an alternative for expansion, which people here would prefer, think it works better
- Heathrow tells you about all the economic benefits but don't tell you about all the other issues, such as: health issues, the freight issue
- Road infrastructure was not built or fit for the freight vehicles and the increase in the volume of trucks passing through
- Doubling the freight – this has/will have a huge impact on local communities – in part due to the anti-social behaviour of some of the truck drivers. There is also the noise, fumes and other environmental impacts to deal with which will increase with the extra freight lorries passing through
- Aircrafts were there with the noise when many residents moved in but the number of trucks/drivers has got much worse
- DHL have the biggest depot
- Warehouses are being built up right up to the back of people's homes
- Generally, people OK with the airport but because of expansion and broken promises people are against it
- Mayor has said that he will give funding to groups raising objections to the expansion

Heathrow Expansion Consultation – The Process

- Resident attended the West Drayton/Hounslow Heathrow expansion event and was told by a member of the Heathrow team that she must be confused about the air pollution levels
- There is a lot of information provided around the choice of roads and routes, but don't have information on the air pollution
- Residents are not being given enough information to make informed choices/responses – don't know the unintended consequences of any of the options
- Need more detail on the possible trade-offs
- The safety-zone – homes falling within this zone will be double-glazed but what happens if there is an accident?
- This consultation is just a tick-box exercise
- In Hounslow, there is a new group called Bash Runway Three – A better not bigger Heathrow (Bashr3) – it is a worrying trend that people feel they are not being listened to
- Need to get to a range of people – talk to areas from further afield, more than 5 miles away from the airport
- What is the definition of local
- Most of the questions asked are closed questions
- Is there any independent scrutiny of the consultation responses – not by Heathrow staff? *Yes – there is a legal obligation to say how the feedback has influenced the decisions moving forward*
- There is consultation fatigue
- Ipsos Mori are doing the analysis
- Who is Mori going to report to? Charlotte Twyning, Director of the Heathrow Consent Team

HCEB

- Community feel very excluded from HACC and CEB
 - Noted that CEB should have been in place in 2016
 - The Chair of the CEB was supposed to go around to all the communities to talk about the consultation process
 - Members of the LFF should be on the CEB. LFF has a seat on the CEB
 - Residents/local people must have a place (not just representatives of groups) on the HCEB
- LFF are suspicious of the CEB so once chair announced then have the conversation about membership
- Invitation to KMA & Pegasus to come and meet some residents in their homes
 - KMA/Pegasus/PAE will write a report to HCEB once the Stage 1 Consultation is over
 - Keep Britain Tidy showed what can be done with the Board
 - Working with Keep Britain Tidy and HAL Community Relations Manager, Shanzida Chowdhury, who is very good and committed to ensuring Heathrow Airport is a better neighbour
 - Give the new chair a chance
 - Christine Taylor said she felt optimistic, having been part of the selection panel for the new chair. It was a thorough process, which Christine very much felt a part of (even though it didn't start well, in terms her being notified of her role). The decision on who to appoint was a unanimous one

3. Better Neighbour Programme update

Due to the meeting starting late and the previous session running on longer than planned, it was agreed that the update on the Better Neighbour programme would be delayed to the next meeting.

AT wanted it put on record that she had been delighted to meet Shanzida, a member of the team who she felt was at last fully committed and passionate about her project in the Heathrow Villages.

4. Heathrow report – tabled

5. AOB

Mike Rayner (MR) said he would like the December minutes amended to reflect his comments that Heathrow's ambition to make the local area a great place to live was flawed and he felt his comments were dismissed by John Holland-Kaye. His view is that all the things that are bad about living around Heathrow, continue to get bigger, not better.

Jane Taylor (JT) said she was disappointed to read Heathrow's response regarding Heathrow charging market rates on rentals for the properties they own in Sipson and Harmondsworth (January minutes). She believes the rent levels that Heathrow charges are preventing families living in the villages because they can't afford it. JT said she would like to see Heathrow offering discounted rental rates to encourage families to move into the villages.

CT asked why Heathrow was still buying properties. CM explained that Heathrow is only purchasing properties under the previous PMSB scheme or the Hardship scheme. It was agreed that Heathrow would provide information on the number of properties purchased under these schemes.

Cllr Viridi announced that he was stepping down as a councillor but expressed his desire to remain as a member of the LFF which other members supported.

AT raised a number of points:

- In January minutes, she asked that it was made clear that airspace changes will be made regardless of Heathrow expansion and so that there will be three stages of consultation whatever happens;
- She sought clarification that the report with the results of Heathrow's first consultation will not be available until after the Government votes of the NPS. RG confirmed that is correct;
- On the previous response regarding compensation for businesses (January minutes), AT sought clarification on a point regarding replacement premises. It was agreed this information will be clarified and provided separately (ACTION: RG);

- AT was unhappy that it was being said by JHK and Heathrow's Chair, Paul Deighton, that the reason Heathrow expansion hadn't happened previously was because Heathrow had focussed on the wrong things and not considered community impacts. She wanted to be clear that it was because residents had stopped it previously and said Heathrow needed to be truthful about this.

Date of next meeting: 24 April 2018, 6 for 630pm.