

BERA AGM
St Augustine's Church
MINUTES OF MEETING
21st March 2019

Start 8:00pm

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Theo Steel
Cliff White
Fred and Margaret Watson

2. Minutes of last meeting

Proposed and seconded

3. Matters arising

Lucette Smith asked about the tram stop charity and was it still going. Mike Stafford explained the charity had been shut down and the money raised had been given to a local charity and was being spent on the handicapped.

4. Guest speakers Damon Knight, Head of Air Traffic at Southend Airport and Jo Marcetti, Corporate and Social Responsibility

Damon explained he has been at the airport just under 2 years but in aviation for almost 30 years. His talk will explain air traffic and minimising the impact to the local community (positive and negative).

Southend Airport sits under the busiest airspace in the world and it has to fit in with everyone else. Safety always comes first, and aviation is the safest industry on the planet. Passengers want to be safe and secure but have an easy transit through the airport, but there are constraints in the area such as Shoeburyness range which has protected airspace. Everything in the controlled airspace around the airport has to be notified to air traffic.

The weather is an important factor to them. Aircraft want to take off and land in the wind. They take off on the North East runway and land on the South West runway if they can eg pointing towards Burnham-on-Crouch or leaving over Burnham-on-Crouch. If they take off on the North East runway planes will fly over the Thorpe Bay area and if they take off on the South West runway they will be over Leigh-on-Sea.

Commercial aircraft don't have to follow a route to a point, this is managed by the pilot. The airspace design has not changed for 50 years but there are due to be changes in the future (Google: New Airspace Modernisation Strategy). When these changes are designed there will be consultations with the public about the routes and the process is expected to take 5 years but will make everything more efficient.

Ryanair are due to start flights from Southend Airport on the 2nd April. Their main concerns are safety and security of passengers and trying to be noise efficient. Most of their flights are replacing Flybe flights lost last year. Stobart were running flights for Flybe, but this is being reconsidered. There is currently good infrastructure on the ground, but changes may be necessary if the airport wants to expand.

Drones: Rules changed after the problems at Gatwick. Drone operators need permission from the CAA and to get that they need proper training. There have been reduced numbers of drones seen since what happened at Gatwick.

Noise: Jo investigates fully and checks rules. There are many questions and answers on the website including how to report problems which can be sorted out via email.

Questions:

Q. Mrs Gibson asked whether it was correct that drones cannot be flown within 5km of an airport.

A. Damon replied this was correct and the rules changed on 30th March. A bigger zone had been requested and drones can be flown but they need permission of air traffic control. They must follow rules, undertake risk assessment, have insurance etc. Air traffic are happy if they are made aware of drones. It is those they don't know about that worry them.

Q. Ian Syers: Stobart want to increase passenger numbers from 1m to 10m. Will this mean 10 times the number of planes?

A. No, it depends on the size of the aircraft. Ryanair planes are bigger (can seat an additional 90 people) and careful management can reduce the impact. If the business is there then the aircraft will fly and any growth will depend on the public.

Statement: Councillor Terry: The council make sure that planes are flying within guidelines eg if an aircraft turns too quickly the company involved will be fined. These fines go into pots and are for local charities. PS Cllr Terry says he loves the airport.

A: Damon said that Jo follows up on such matters with the operator concerned and a report is made to local government.

Q. Ian Syers: Will Ryanair use noisier planes?

A. No, they invest heavily in equipment and newer planes make much less noise than the older ones. There are restrictions on noisy aircraft at night.

Suggests looking at: Aviation Strategy 2050

Q. Neville Gibson: The airport covers two areas, land in Southend and some in Rochford. Does this affect the way the airport is run?

A. No, they have to answer to both councils and have a lot of engagement with Essex Council about road infrastructure. There is also the rail station covering both areas and 30% of passengers come by rail.

Q. Ron Woodley: We are near the City of London Airport. Does this cause problems.

A. Yes, it is the main conflict as their designs mean they arrive over the sea and they fly over the Thames Estuary. If there are no City Airport flights, Southend flights can climb to higher levels.

Q. Ron Woodley: Is the job of an air traffic controller stressful?

A. There are many more stressful jobs. They have regulations about hours, breaks, leave and they must follow regulations. They have training plans and invest in local people. It takes a year of basic training before being able to talk to an aircraft then another year before they can do that on their own. They are also constantly being monitored.

Q. Ian Syers: Thanks for explaining why planes may be low and not climbing when they fly over. Are there any changes likely that will mean planes may go to a higher level sooner?

A. More routes can be created for aircrafts in different directions. It makes a more complex design but can be more effective and efficient. Air traffic want them to climb as soon as possible.

Q. Emma Faddington: Will there be 737's flying?

A. Aviation is very hot on safety. No 737's can currently fly in UK airspace. Boeing are currently working to confirm that any problems with their plans have been resolved.

5. Guest speaker Beverley Gallagher, South Essex Homes - Care Line SOS

Beverley explained that lots of accidents happen in our own homes and their service gives peace of mind 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. An alarm can be worn round the neck or wrist and you are monitored from the monitoring centre that has staff on 3 shifts, 7 people during the day and a smaller number at night. The alarms have a powerful microphone that still works in the garden (if it is a small/medium size). When the alarm is pressed the centre know who is calling and where they live. They will assess the situation and monitor the person until help arrives, if needed. The system needs a telephone cable or the internet (doesn't currently work with digital although by 2025 they have to move to digital). They also supply carbon monoxide alarms, bed sensors and chair sensors and these are not just for older people.

Q. Ron Woodley: In future will people be able to use these alarms when they are out and about?

A. Distances can be set on the alarms and if a person goes outside these boundaries a relative is called and advised that the person with the alarm is outside the area and may need help.

Statement: Ron Woodley: If you feel vulnerable in your own home this can help you.

Q. How is this funded?

A. It is paid for by customers – currently £13.99 per month and an installation fee of £37.50.

6. Treasurer's Report

Mike Stafford went through the accounts and they were proposed and seconded.

7. Chairman's Report

Planting has been taking place and looks good as did the Christmas lights.

Members can go on Which online – passwords are on top of weekly E-Newsletters.

BERA coffee mornings – great success, good to see so many there. Great to see new members there who start talking to others creating a great community feeling.

Alarms – We now supply personal and panic alarms, contactless card pouches, car key pouches.

Speak to your neighbours, especially new ones, encouraging them to join BERA as the more of us there are the more we can do to enhance the area.

Pavements and potholes – We are getting them fixed and although there are still problems this area is so much better than other areas and there is more money spent here than any other area in town.

Extra trains starting 1st June – will be 8 trains per hour from Shoeburyness on a Saturday and 6 on a Sunday. Fast trains from Thorpe Bay to Fenchurch Street will take 50 minutes.

E-Newsletters – Feedback is good.

Door to door salesmen – do not buy their high-priced wares. We have heard horror stories about tree cutting, garden clearance etc. If you want work done get quotes and speak to previous customers.

Scam emails – delete them, do not open anything that looks suspicious.

Anti-social behaviour – especially Thorpe Bay Gardens and around that area. People are in cars with loud music, sniffing gas bottles and racing along any straight bits of road. Make sure you know where your children or grandchildren are. Someone could be killed.

Committee – we have new members

What we achieve is tremendous. It is nice to meet you all, it is a great community and I am proud to serve you all as Chairman and a councillor.

Q. Ken Kitcher, Wyatts Drive: Boy racers, where are they coming from?

A. Don't know. We will have permission for mobile CCTV cameras soon. Also hope to have portable build out scenario that moves from area to area, increased staff monitoring CCTV.

There is also a problem at Southchurch Park with drug dealing and drug taking. We are trying to get the gate shut at night. East gates are closed, and they should close the main park gates. We managed to get lights put in. Email any anti-social behaviour to us.

Q. Ian Stobart: Trying to stop excess speeding (Burgess Road cut through). Can there be a project to stop this?

A. Did a report on this called 20's plenty. Getting councillors on board to reduce speed through signage and education. On straight roads, barriers are needed to slow drivers down.

Q. Ian Stobart: Speed monitoring signs are effective

A. At Woodgrange near shops (being re-surfaced on 12 April) about 90% of the time the machines flashes and drivers are ignoring the signs.

Q. Ian Syers: There is a lot of litter about. Can BERA play a role in supplementing litter collection?

A. We have mentioned this in our E-Newsletters and got a couple of people volunteering. If we can get more, we will pass their names on. Equipment will be supplied.

Q. Can people stop putting their rubbish out the night before the bin men come and put it out on the morning as foxes, cats, rats etc are making a mess.

A. If any of you struggle to put your rubbish out it can be arranged with the council for it to be collected at the front door.

8. Re-election of the Committee

Current Committee:

Ron Woodley

Mike Stafford

David & Margaret Harper

Avis France

Freddie Dawkins

Ken Swain

Theo Steel

Cecily Bonallack

Cliff White

Blaine Osborne

Mike Carter

Michael Dyer

Asked for a show of hands – most hands went up

9. Any Other Business

Lucette Smith: We need larger waste bins on seafront and they are not emptied enough

A: They should be emptied regularly (2/3 times a day). Ron will follow up

Meeting finished at 9.30pm