

COUNCIL MEETING

25th NOVEMBER 2015

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR ORAL REPLY

(1) From Iain Bull to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

Increase in pollution. I live under the flightpath and directly on Scadbury Nature Reserve. The increase in aircraft will increase the amount of pollution in the air.

Have you studied the impact of this on me and my family's health and that of the wildlife? If so could I please see this study?

(2) From Iain Bull to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

House prices. It has been incredibly difficult to get to where I am now with a house and a mortgage. My current house is a stepping stone to the next but an increase in flight traffic is going to put people off the area.

Have you studied the impact on housing prices under the flightpath? How are you going to compensate those affected when their houses have been devalued?

(3) From Iain Bull to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

The current levels of noise are tolerable and don't affect my young children. An increase in flight times is going to have aircraft over my house after their bedtime. Sleep in young children is essential for growth, healing and learning. A disturbance in this pattern is widely documented and can be read online.

Where is the study into the noise levels and its impact on the young?

(4) From Will Curtis, Biggin Hill, to the Leader of the Council

Does the Leader agree that the proposed new Noise Action Plan introduces new noise controls for the airport and modernises the environmental management of the airport?

Supplementary Question:

Does the Leader agree that the proposed Noise Monitoring and Track Keeping System will make it much easier for the Council to oversee the airport and hold the airport to account?

(5) From Colin Hitchins, Petts Wood, to the Leader of the Council

Does the Leader believe that the proposed new flight path for runway 03 at Biggin Hill Airport will significantly reduce air traffic over Petts Wood and Farnborough?

Supplementary Question:

Does the Leader agree that this is likely to reduce, not increase, disturbance in Petts Wood, Farnborough and surrounding areas?

(6) From Robert Walters to the Leader of the Council

Is the Leader able to confirm that following a noise survey at Darrick Wood, London Borough of Bromley Environment Officer Dr. Hedley Pugh recently reported that aircraft using Biggin Hill had little overall impact on noise levels in the Darrick Wood environs?

Supplementary Question:

Is the Leader further aware that Dr. Pugh concluded that aircraft using other airports had the potential to cause more impact than aircraft using Biggin Hill Airport?

(7) From Katy Woolcott to the Leader of the Council

Does the Leader agree that the recommendations of the Council's Noise consultant set out all necessary mitigation and noise controls as may reasonably be required in order to protect the local environment and amenities for the foreseeable future and does he have any points on which he has a different opinion?

Supplementary Question:

If he has any points upon which he differs with his consultant, what evidence does he have upon which to base that belief?

(8) From Bethany Russell, Biggin Hill to the Leader of the Council

Is the Leader aware that there are currently a number of overseas aircraft service companies that are considering investing at Biggin Hill Airport if the revised operating hours are approved?

Supplementary Question:

Is the Leader aware that in late 2013 Bromley Council officers and the GLA were involved with Biggin Hill Airport in seeking to attract a major multinational aircraft service company to Biggin Hill which ultimately failed due to the existing overly restrictive airport operating hours?

(9) From David Calver to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

It is understood that Biggin Hill Airport is used by many Middle Eastern personnel to give them easier access to London.

Can the Council be sure that increased operating hours will not affect the long term security of this country?

(10) From Jason Polis to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

BHAL's proposal and the council report describe different "community funds". Neither demonstrate adequate funding for sufficient compensation, nor how & who would be paid.

If I lose work from lack of sleep or relocate my family home due to noise, who will decide how much compensation's paid and how ?

(11) From Jason Polis to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

As the loss of enjoyment due to the nuisance from aircraft noise in the proposed additional operating hours is reasonably foreseeable, would the council as landlord become directly liable in tort by effectively adopting this new continuing nuisance ?

(12) From Jason Polis to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

If as per item 3.7 in report (DRR15/097), the council could not insist upon changes to the lease, how could extended operating hours be revoked by this or future councils?

(13) From Tony Trinick FEng, Vice Chairman, Flightpath Watch to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

When the Council bought the airport in 1974, it did so, among other reasons, to protect the Borough's environment and residents, and their amenities.

Why has the Council, in this report, reneged on this principle?

(14) From Tony Trinick FEng, Vice Chairman, Flightpath Watch to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

After 6 months of negotiations, very little has been achieved, apart from a noise monitoring system which is irrelevant to the issue of operating hours at unsocial times.

How can Councillors ratify now the 25th March 'approval in principle' decision?

(15) From Andrea Stevens to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

A press release from the airport stated that Petts Wood residents would see 30% fewer overflights due to the new GPS to R03.

Do Councillors realise that this leaves an increase of approx. 50% over the current number of jet movements, thereby worsening the present situation for Petts Wood?

[To illustrate (from NAP pages 8 and 13):

19,750 Business Aviation movements in 2020 minus 11,500 BA current = 8250 less 2,475 (i.e. 30%) = 5775 or a 50% increase on current levels]

(16) From Andrea Stevens to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

Council consultant Chris Smith has shown that BHAL is not disadvantaged against other comparable airports by conditions imposed by the Lease, operating hours being specifically mentioned - so what justification is there for Bromley residents to be treated worse than residents in the local authorities of such comparable airports?

(17) From Bruce Anderson to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

In October Council was advised of extremely worrying anomalous results from its public consultation. Other parties who have seen this have stated that the survey results should be totally disregarded.

Will Council now confirm that it recognises that it has not had public opinion supporting its negotiations with BHAL?

(18) From Bruce Anderson to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

Will you please inform me how much of the loan of £1,583,469 to BHAL has been repaid to date, this being the cost of resurfacing the runway and lighting improvements? When will the outstanding balance be paid?

(19) From David Clapham to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

The Executive confirmed on 29th June that helicopter flights would be included in negotiations. Residents remain concerned that these are noisy and fly directly over homes at relatively low levels.

Has this aspect of the negotiations been completed and what was the outcome for helicopters?

(20) From David Clapham to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

Experts have demonstrated that the concept of the lesser evil was scaremongering, that the consultation was unsound, that noise will be doubling and that LBB cannot obtain additional payments from BHAL.

In this context, how would it be reasonable to sacrifice residents' quality of life and productivity?

(21) From Bob Trott to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

Recommendation 17 (final paragraph) of Report DRR 15/097 infers the Council is aware of the need for prescriptive documentation for departures to avoid the inhabited areas around Orpington, as well as support any NMTK System. The current situation whereby the majority of aircraft do not follow the BHAL web site depicted route, needs attention.

Why are definitive proposals not being made available now, when BHAL and the Council have been aware of this problem for many months and work on the problem has taken place?

(22) From Bob Trott to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

The Commentary in Recommendation 17 of the Technical Consultants Report does not specifically require BHAL to submit to LBB details of the actual tracks upon which the NMTK system will be based.

Will the Council include these as a mandatory element that has to be included as part of the final agreement and that they adhere to the principle of avoiding, as far as possible, residential areas ?

(23) From Bob Trott to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

The NAP(Final) has been developed following discussions between BHAL and LBB. However, para 4.37 (h) states fine revenues will be used differently from Recommendation 17 of the Technical Consultants Report.

What is the policy of the Council?

(24) From Hugh Bunce to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

With 90% of adult residents in twelve Bromley wards opposed to extended airport operating hours, will your Council please acknowledge that preserved sleep for Bromley residents is a basic human right, and needs to be protected by retaining the operating hours in the current operating lease?

(25) From Hugh Bunce to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

How can your council believe that any of the proposals in your report can mitigate, or trade-off, for the loss of residents' sleep, and why have you chosen to negotiate with the airport and not with residents who are the biggest group of stakeholders involved with this issue?

(26) From Jo Johnson MP to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

What assurances will the Council provide that the interests of residents living beneath the flightpath, whose quality of life will be most affected as a result of Biggin Hill Airport Limited's proposals to extend their operating hours, will be properly prioritised within the decision making process?

(27) From Richard Gibbons to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

If Councillors for Chelsfield & Pratts Bottom and neighbouring Wards are persuaded to favour extending operating hours at Biggin Hill Airport as proposed, what tangible benefits that are relevant to Orpington will candidates be able to offer the electorate in 2016, 2018 and 2020?