

MEETING

21st MARCH 2011

ORAL QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Councillor Tim Stevens of the Leader of the Council

Could the Leader please tell me by ward how many e-mails/letters were in support or against re the recent consultation on the Olympic proposals by Biggin Hill Airport?

Reply:

The Leader advised that where addresses had been provided, the areas were recorded. A copy of the analysis had been circulated at the meeting (appended to these minutes).

Councillor Stevens indicated that he had no supplementary question. However he did want to hand in a petition on the subject but was advised by the Mayor that this was not procedurally correct and that it should be dealt with outside of this meeting. There were new rules covering petitions which the Council adopted last year.

2. From Councillor Simon Fawthrop of the Leader of the Council

- 1) What is the largest airplane that
 - a) can physically land at Biggin Hill Airport by Volume?
 - b) is allowed to land at Biggin Hill Airport under the terms of the lease by volume?

Reply:

Councillor Carr responded that the size of planes that could use the airport was limited by the length of the runway and the ability of the plane to take off in that distance. A Boeing 757 could, in theory, operate from the airport, but only for a short distance flight as the runway was not long enough for it to take off with full fuel tanks. A 737 or Airbus 319 could also operate from the airport. However, BHAL had indicated that they would not take planes of that size over the Olympic period because they took up too much parking space and restricted other uses of the airport.

There was no restriction on plane size in the current Lease.

Supplementary Question:

Councillor Fawthrop asked if the Leader would agree with him that when looking at the various planes using Biggin Hill Airport we should aim to minimise the risk to residents of the Borough of extra large aircraft.

Reply:

Councillor Carr replied that the safety and well being of residents obviously came top of our priorities whether in connection with the Airport or any thing else. He was not personally convinced that the size of the aircraft was an issue but rather the environmental impact and noise would be the areas that were potentially more damaging to the welfare of residents. However, he did take the point around infrastructure and that if larger planes with more passengers were used in the future there would be further implications although that was not permissible under the current terms.

3. From Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP of the Leader of the Council

How many of the 2107 responses to the consultation on the application by BHAL were identically worded or on pro forma cards?

Reply:

Councillor Carr advised that of the total 2192 responses eventually received, 694 responses used one of a series of standard letters or alternatively, a standard paragraph was used with the same wording, contained within a wider letter.

Councillor Bennett did not have a supplementary question.

4. From Councillor Simon Fawthrop of the Leader of the Council

What is the frequency of public transport service at Biggin Hill Airport at the following times

- (i) between 6.30am and 7.30am on a weekday morning
- (ii) after 9.00pm on a week day
- (iii) before 9.00am on a weekend
- (iv) after 8.00pm on a weekend

Reply:

Councillor Carr replied that the main bus route was the 320; the 246 bus followed a round about and longer route to Bromley via Keston and Hayes. The 320 ran every 12 minutes on weekdays and Saturdays and 20 minutes in the evenings and Sundays.

Supplementary Question:

Councillor Fawthrop asked whether the Leader agreed that the level of service provided by public transport was inconsistent with an Airport that had aspirations to be used for the Olympics.

Reply:

Councillor Carr did not agree entirely with the comment or that it was an issue. However he felt that should there be more passengers using public transport then it would require the service to be upgraded.

5. From Councillor Simon Fawthrop of the Leader of the Council

3) What is the quickest journey time from Biggin Hill Airport to Bromley South railway station?

Reply:

Councillor Carr responded that it would depend on who was driving but it was probably reasonable to say about 20-25 minutes journey time.

Supplementary Question:

Councillor Fawthrop asked whether the Leader agreed with him that public transport journey times from Southend Airport and London City Airport to the nearest railway underground stations were much more attractive to visitors to the Olympic Games than Biggin Hill.

Reply:

Councillor Carr replied that it may have certain attractions. He could only speak personally having travelled to and from Stansted Airport, for example into the city, which was a route he would not want to use. He considered that as the City Airport was on the fringes of the Olympic Village and although not familiar with the modes of transport into the Olympics Games he felt it would be an easier route.

Reply to Question 1

Consultation analysis re Biggin Hill Airport Limited proposals

Responses by area and whether in favour of proposals.

AREA	No	Yes	Total
Beckenham	9	2	11
Bickley	2	1	3
Biggin Hill	131	43	174
Bromley	41	6	47
Chelsfield	13	0	13
Chislehurst	200	3	203
Cudham	82	1	83
Downe	34	1	35
Eltham	1	0	1
Epsom	0	1	1
Farnborough	203	2	205
Halstead	6	0	6
Hayes	75	5	80
Keston	148	1	149
Knockholt	82	0	82
Locksbottom	18	0	18
Mottingham	2	0	2
Orpington	548	7	555
Petts Wood	176	4	180
Sevenoaks	10	0	10
Sidcup	4	0	4
St Paul's Cray	1	0	1
Surrey	8	2	10
Tatsfield	2	0	2
Warlingham	4	0	4
West Wickham	30	0	30
Westerham	35	2	37
Anonymous	216	30	246
TOTAL	2081	111	2192