

**GEORGE BEST BELFAST CITY AIRPORT FORUM**  
**Minutes of Meeting No 97**  
**Held on Tuesday 4 April 2023 at 7.45pm**  
**VENUE: Conference Room 1, BCA**

**Attendees:**

Mark Doherty (MD)	Belfast Harbour Commissioners
Carol Edwards (CE)	Forum Chair
Alderman Tom Haire (TH)	Belfast City Council
David Courtenay (DC)	Department for Infrastructure
David McCambley (DMcC)	Belfast City Council
Alan Andrews (AA)	Hollywood Residents' Association
Michelle Hatfield (MH)	Belfast City Airport
Councillor John Kyle (JK)	Belfast City Council
Alderman Bill Keery (BK)	Ards and North Down Borough Council
Richard Williams (RW)	Consumer Council
Daniel V McCaughan (DM)	Cultra Residents' Association

**In Attendance:**

Ian Nuttall (IN)	Belfast City Airport
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**1. APOLOGIES AND OPENING REMARKS**

Apologies were received from -

Councillor Gillian Greer	Ards and North Down Borough Council
Dot Erskine	Tourism Northern Ireland
Alastair Curran	Belfast City Council
Kathy Graham	Deputy Forum Chair

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members agreed that the minutes represented an accurate record of the meeting held on 29 November 2022.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**4. AIRPORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Director's Report presented by MH included the following:

## Business Update

Whilst pax and revenue is below 2019 this year to date, there is a positive picture with new routes coming on line.

The impact of the loss of Flybe, whilst representing 17% of aviation business in 2023, has been less significant than in 2020 when Flybe represented 80% of business.

Recent/forthcoming route additions include Newquay on 3 April, Isle of Man on 24 April, Newcastle on 28 April, and Jersey on 6 May (all Aer Lingus Regional), Easyjet to Luton and Manchester on 26 June, and charter flights to Mallorca and Bologna.

AA asked if there will be any service to Faro; MH explained that the commercial team were continually in discussions with new and existing airlines and hoped to be in a position to announce some new sunshine routes for 2024.

BK and JK asked about the current situation with the LHR service (since the departure of Aer Lingus); MH explained that whilst only BA are operating to LHR, BA CityFlyer is operating to LCY and Easyjet operate to LGW and are due to commence the LTN route in June.

DM asked about the effectiveness of airline offers; MH explained that these are commercially effective and that BCA is looking at how it can work with airlines to further develop routes and commercial offerings from BCA.

## Site Development and Car Parking

There has been a £1.7m investment in reconfiguration of short stay car parking as well as an improved offering for site pedestrian access, PRM and blue badge holder customers and improved site wayfinding.

On 14 March, a minimum £3 charge was introduced for users of a new Express Drop Off and Pick Up area (with an option to use the Short Stay Car Park for £3.50 for a full 60 minutes).

Free pick up and drop off is available in the Long Stay Car Park for up to 10 minutes.

The feasibility of providing of EV charging within the car park area is under commercial consideration and the facilities will be live once this has been agreed.

AA asked if there has been an increase in parking costs above the rate of inflation, and if the £3.50/60 minute period could be extended to two hours. MH replied that she would raise with the commercial team and provide any update as appropriate.

TH asked if there is a designated area for pick up/drop off within the long stay car park. MH responded that the need for this will be reviewed depending on demand.

Members made various additional comments on the new arrangements – both positive and negative.

## Corporate Responsibility

The 2023 round of the Ignite programme involves 26 young people who are engaged in a range of personal development activities including a return to the annual trip to LA (in June) this year.

Work is ongoing with BCA's 'Adopted Schools', including proposed activity to engage schools in biodiversity projects.

## Community Group Recruitment

Following recent unsuccessful attempts to recruit new community groups to the Forum, MH proposed promoting membership of the Forum through a series of forthcoming meetings between BCA and key stakeholders and political leaders in the coming months.

**Action** - IN, MH

## **6. AIRPORT STATISTICS**

Members were provided with the statistics report up to February this year (including 2019 data for comparison purposes).

DMcC asked what percentage of flights in 2022 were before 07:00 (ie were not included in the calculation of the noise contours). IN to provide figures.

**Action** - IN

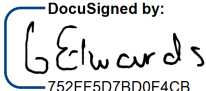
## **8. AOB**

Members asked if bullet points summarising the Director's Report could be provided in advance of future meetings. MH to provide.

**Action** - MH

## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date to be confirmed.

Signed: 752FF5D7BD0F4CB...

Date: 14-06-2023 | 16:31 BST

Carol Edwards, Forum Chair