

BAWTRY TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2010

Robin Hood Airport Night Flying

What has happened?

You may be aware that Robin Hood Airport has been consulting with DMBC on variations to the current agreement in place in order to introduce scheduled night flying by QC4 aircraft (e.g. Boeing 747-400).

On February 2nd DMBC Planning Committee approved the variations by a majority of 7 votes to 3 despite objections from Bawtry Town Council, some other local councils, local groups and local residents. Bawtry Town Council has continually opposed these variations on behalf of Bawtry residents who now face being woken up at night and an increase in HGV numbers through the town. We regret that Robin Hood Airport has been granted these variations without having to lodge a full planning application, when the changes they propose are against the conditions originally imposed by the Secretary of State and DMBC.

Why did it happen?

The decision has been made on the recommendations of DMBC planning officers to its Planning Committee. They said that:-

- 1) The noise impacts of the variations are acceptable
- 2) The economic impact is beneficial
- 3) Other impacts are not on a significant scale

Bawtry Town Council takes issue with all these views. No noise impact at night time is acceptable. It is proposed that these night flights are restricted to 100 movements a year, but the definition of 'movement' is not included.

We question the numbers of jobs Robin Hood Airport say will be created by relaxing the QC4 rules and we disagree with the opinion that other impacts will not be significant. Bawtry will certainly notice the impact of extra HGV vehicles through an already very busy town centre if the freight business expands as the airport hopes. Indeed the airport has made no secret of the fact that they would wish for even more night movements than the numbers this variation grants them.

Are there any controls?

There is in place a sanctions scheme. Monitoring is both by DMBC and the airport. Bawtry Town Council has doubts as to the effectiveness of this scheme as planes still fly routinely over the centre of Bawtry despite commitments made. Some aircraft do avoid the town so why can't they all?

A noise monitoring system (reliant only however on fixed noise monitors) and a computer system for tracking routes are operational. DMBC states that these current systems are acceptable.

What can be done?

Bawtry Town Council believes now, more than ever, both Robin Hood Airport and DMBC should be taken to task if flights break rules on noise levels and routes taken. Complaints should be made direct to the Airport on 01302 623499 in the first instance.

After lodging your first complaint with the airport, you can write to DMBC Environmental Health, PO Box 257, Council House, College Road, Doncaster DN1 1RN, and ask for the noise complaint details to be recorded. These will be passed on to the airport by DMBC and your enquiry will be acknowledged.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Robin Hood Airport – to report severe aircraft noise 01302 623499. Leave name, address, telephone number, time of flight, whether taking off or landing, and airline if possible

Doncaster Council Main Switchboard – 01302 734444

Faulty Street Lights, DMBC, 01302 735111, quote number of lighting column

Neighbourhood Team, DMBC - 01302 736000

Anti litter and dumped cars, DMBC - 01302 736050

LIST OF TOWN COUNCILLORS

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YOUR LOCAL MP – RT HON CAROLINE FLINT

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