

AIRPORT NOISE COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

MINUTES Meeting 3 February 2021

ATTENDEES

Murray Bell	(Independent Chairperson)
David Blair	(Community Representative, Kāpiti Retirement Trust)
Don Day	(Community Representative)
Jonny Best	(Paraparaumu/Raumati Community Board Representative)
Simon Lockie	(Kāpiti Coast Airport, Airport Manager)
Joseph Sule	(Council Advisor – District Plan Policy, Kāpiti Coast District Council)
Grant Twaddle	(Kāpiti Districts Aero Club Representative)
James Jefferson	(Group Manager Regulatory Services, Kāpiti Coast District Council)
Amanda Cottrell	(Secretary)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
Meeting participants introduced themselves.

APOLOGIES

Jack Rikihana (Te Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai Representative)
Peter Merwood (Kāpiti Districts Aero Club Representative) – Grant Twaddle attended for him
It was resolved the apologies be accepted.

MINUTES

The draft minutes of the previous meeting dated 1 May 2019 were reviewed.

MOVED (Day/Best)

That the minutes of the meeting of 1 May 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP'S PURPOSE

Joseph Sule gave an overview of the Group's purpose. The key points included:

- The Group is a requirement of District Plan and Airport Noise Management Plan – required to meet twice per year.
- The purpose of the Group is to:
 - a. consider and make recommendations to the Airport Manager around noise.
 - b. Identify community concerns about aircraft noise.
 - c. Assist and advise airport manager on relevant information dissemination to the community.
 - d. Review current procedures for handling noise complaints.
 - e. Assist Airport Manager with review of noise management plan, noise abatement procedures and aircraft noise flight path information.
 - f. Monitor noise levels.
 - g. Apply noise abatement procedures.
 - h. Assess appropriate technical expertise and guidance
 - i. Review annual airport report for past 12 months.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Murray Bell was appointed as Independent Chairperson by Kāpiti Coast District Council.

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT:

The Airport Manager, Simon Lockie, spoke to his report which was circulated prior to the meeting.

Key points included:

- Sharp uptake in noise complaints recently. Received 61 in last 12 months. Previous report was 8. 2019 was around the same.
- 40 of 61 complaints were in the last two months.
- This could partially be attributed to the increase in people working at home post-Covid and summer months as there are more day time complaints now than previously, as observed by the Manager's anecdotal evidence.
- The majority of complaints are about normal airport activity, not unusual activities.
- The after curfew complaints (between 10.30pm and 6am), represent about 1/3 of the total complaints but only marginal percentage of curfew.
- Wellington Airport's night maintenance programme has meant that it has been closed at night for seal repairs. As a result of this, Air Ambulance flights have been using Kapiti as an alternate airport so increased night flights. Wellington Airport has communicated very poorly about the duration of this programme.
- Air Ambulance normally have a couple of flights per year in Kapiti, but this has recently been every few nights. These flights will largely stop once the Wellington Airport maintenance is finished.
- Air Ambulances come in to land, pick up transfer staff, leave, pick up the patient and bring them back again resulting in multiple movements.
- Several multiple complaints around reasons for night flights.
- There has been very little publicity around the air ambulance flights.
- Some pilots are expressing their disapproval with airport management by flying inconsiderately. They are not flying illegally, just being inconsiderate.
- There have been some issues with staffing the control tower which resulted in a 15-minute delay between curfew ends and airport closures.
- Complaints are not mapped by location but the majority are coming from the Raumati end of the airport.
- The Manager has received some threatening and abusive complaints from the public recently.
- Only one complaint has amounted to someone breaching the curfew by three minutes. An incident report was lodged with Civil Aviation for this. The breach was caused by Massey Aviation College sending a group of planes down to Kapiti one night to do night circuits and one touched down after curfew. This has also been taken up with Massey Aviation College.
- Several complaints were also lodged for activities inside the curfew but very close to it.
- Air traffic control restrictions will ease soon due to new controllers being trained up and certified. This will alleviate the rolling closures and reduced operating hours.
- Often one event can received 5 complaints about it.
- After the Tower goes off watch at night the airport becomes unattended.
- This year due to changing use of the airport the airport exposition has a requirement for an aeronautical study to be undertaken. Until the results of the aeronautical study are known, the airport cannot operate outside the terms of the Exposition for the published hours.

Mr Twaddle advised that he has individually spoken with the pilots of the aircraft who are flying inconsiderately.

The meeting resolved to receive the Airport Manager's report.

NO CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

NOISE MONITORING REPORT

The next noise monitoring by Marshall Day is scheduled for February 2021 – to be actioned by the Airport Manager.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence received.

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business to discuss.

NEXT MEETING

It was suggested the next meeting be held after the Marshall Day noise monitoring report is completed. It will be held on the first Wednesday in August at the same time, in the same venue.

The Chair reminded all parties to submit their reports in advance of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 5.05pm.

Signed as a correct record of the meeting:

Murray Bell
Independent Chairperson