



Local Government for Langton Green, Speldhurst, Ashurst and Old Groombridge

Draft Minutes of the Air Traffic Working Group Meeting

held on Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 7.30pm

In the Parish Council Office, Langton Green Recreation Ground, Langton Green

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Curry (Interim-Chair), Muress, Norton and Tarricone, with Mr Howden.

OFFICER PRESENT: No Officer was present.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were no members of the public present.

1. **To accept and approve apologies and reasons for absence**
Cllr Rowe and Mr Barrington-Johnson (holiday).
2. **To enquire if anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting**
No one present intended to record the meeting.
3. **Disclosure of Interests**
There were none.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying**
Cllr Muress had been lobbied about the frequency of air traffic flying directly over Langton Green.
5. **Public Open Session**
There were no members of the public present.
6. **Review the Gatwick Airport application for conversion of the emergency runway to a full-use runway -**
To discuss what representation the Committee wishes to make at a series of preliminary hearings in February and March.
 - While the Committee stood by its previous objections to the Planning Inspectorate, it was agreed that the hearings regarding the runway were too specific to comment on. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Curry

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would attend the open hearing but would not speak, and that he would not attend the issue-specific hearings. It was felt that the runway now seemed inevitable and that the parish council's efforts should instead focus on the modelling of flight pathways which are coming to consultation in January 2025.

- Members agreed on the importance of coming up with a solid, evidence-based case for flight paths to go directly over the villages increasing their utilisation. The argument would need to go further than that of just any parish under threat of a flight path putting their hand up and saying, "no thanks", as this would simply be dismissed.

7. **Items for Full Council**

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend that Full Council decide on the following question: does the parish council have the skill and time to work on a case for alternative flight paths itself, or should it align itself with whichever lobbying group is felt to have the most shared goals? It was **NOTED** that this recommendation did not need to be made to Full Council immediately and could be determined at the next committee meeting.

8. **Items for Information**

There were none.

There being nothing further to discuss, the meeting ended at 8.40pm.

Chair