

QDCC Chairman's Report for April Business meeting being held on Monday 24th April 2017

I have carried out the following business on behalf of QDCC since the last meeting.

- On the evening of Tuesday 28th March along with Laura and Eleanor I attended the public meeting held in Echline Primary School called by Mr Bruce Whitehead and Airport Watch. The meeting was well attended and was chaired by Councillor Lesley Hinds CEC Transport Convenor. As I was on holiday I didn't attend the drop in session organised by Edinburgh Airport.

I was asked for an update and issued the following by email;

The meeting was well attended and informative and I'm pleased to say was managed very well. Top table was: Bruce Whitehead, Lesley Hinds Alex Cole Hamilton and from Airport Watch; Lynda Paul and Professor Doug Grenhalg.

Bruce Whitehead opened the meeting by introducing the panel and spoke on the environmental ticket. I'm not so sure he has the correct facts about the no of flights etc. Lesley chaired the meeting.

Lynda Paul gave a presentation about the flightpaths and spoke with emotion and was not complimentary about Edinburgh Airports plans and consultation. The retired Professor an expert in this field provided a lot of technical details which was beyond me about the engines, fuel consumption, noise and impacts on the environment around CO2 omissions. He spoke to the Airports consultation document and rubbished the document saying it was full of incorrect facts. All very impressive but as it's a complex subject for the layperson it's difficult to challenge the facts presented.

The drop in session was spoken about and all present were encouraged to attend and question the airport officers present on the day. The question was asked why no one from the Airport was present. Will Tunnel enlightened the audience by advising that they couldn't attend but didn't believe that and it was that they didn't want to. But would attend a meeting after the drop in session. Where he got this information from and why he should be the spokesperson I do not no.

The one thing that I took away from the meeting was a point well made; "what is the problem that Edinburgh Airport is trying to solve". Those present claim that this question has been posed but Edinburgh Airport Officials can't answer the question.

Some other points the Professor made: there isn't a capacity issue! Passenger nos peaked in 2007 and are below that level. Planes are getting bigger and Easy jet Ryan Air are squeezing in more seats! There isn't an economic case for changing the flight paths.

Lynda Paul also made about thing about the consultation being decisive by asking communities to make recommendations about a solution. The solution being suggested is the status quo pre 2012.

A summary from the meeting is being pulled together that will be sent to QDCC so that we can put it on our website and Facebook page.

- On the morning of 13th April I met with Sgt Homewood to discuss Policing matters in Queensferry and the points raised in my letter and Chief Inspector Jones reply. A copy of both has been circulated.
- As reported by the TSC Convenor I organised and attended a meeting with the Transport Convenor Cncllr Hinds to discuss and learn of progress with a replacement for the no 40 bus service to and from Edinburgh.

Correspondence;

I have corresponded with council officers about the High Street works, the Springfield pathway to be built by FCBC on behalf of TS as per the Parliamentary Bill for the FRC.

I received a reply from Chief Inspector Jones and asked for feedback from QDCC Councillors.

Keith Giblett Chair QDCC