

HACC (Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee) meeting 29 January 2014

Heathrow announced that the main road tunnel was due to be refurbished. Work would start in April and may last 3 years, so at night only one side will be used for both in and out.

Also the north runway will be resurfaced this year, nights from March till October. So all night flights will come off the southern, which they usually do anyway.

Heathrow still haven't got planning permission to put new taxiways to the western end of the northern runway, so they can't start regular take-offs from it yet.

There is to be a six-week consultation on Davies and the possible movement of the northwest 3rd runway closer to the northern runway. Starting 6 February It will go to 140 000 households, almost certainly not including Ealing. But I should get a copy as a HACC member. There will be public meetings on it. The nearest to us is Brentford, but no date yet.

Heathrow said that the Davies interim report contained a recommendation that the government review the westerly preference. I had totally missed that, finding it difficult to read long texts on screen and concentrating on 3rd runway. It will be disastrous if the westerly preference is abolished, causing take-offs over Ealing around 40% of the time instead of 30%.

The meeting changed a draft of its response on night flights, making it much less good and more in favour of what the industry wants.

A working party was set up, of 6 or 7 HACC members to propose means of implementation of the results of their review of HACC, including reducing the number of council representatives. Rob Gibson, the LAANC representative, and Virginia Godfrey, HACAN representative, and possibly Malcolm Beer, Windsor representative, are on it, so it could be worse.

There is a CAA paper on noise envelopes, seeming to assume that they are a good idea. EANAG doubts that as it is likely to be too permissive. It's on the CAA website, with a reference a whole line long.

I queried the accuracy of the statistics they gave on night quota used and they promised to let me know if they are right.

Margaret Majumdar
EANAG representative on HACC