



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Helicopter Noise Liaison Group
13 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
7.00 pm

<u>Item</u>
3
Public

## HELICOPTER NOISE LIAISON GROUP

### NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2015 AT 7.00 P.M. AT RAF SHAWBURY, WEM ROAD, SHAWBURY

**Responsible Officer:** Shelley Davies  
Email: shelley.davies@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: (01743) 252719

**Present:**

Simon Jones (Chairman)

Andrew Swindale

Pam Furber

Sue Horton

David Carr

Mike Bradbury

Gwyn Jones

Frank Aspinwall

Paul Jones

Tony Collins

John Pinder

Ian Douglas

John Cadwallader

Christopher Mackley

Phil Keyse

Ray Hirons

John Kennedy

Sharon McLaughlin

Carole Meade

Cllr Waters

Chris Swaithes

Connie Granger

Rupert Harvey

Roger Evans

Pauline Dee

Shropshire Council – Shawbury

Adderley Parish Council

Bomere Heath and District Parish Council

Bomere Heath and District Parish Council

Cockshutt-Cum-Petton Parish Council

Condover Parish Council

Edgmond Parish Council

Grinshill Parish Council

Grinshill Parish Council

Hadnall Parish Council

Kinnerley Parish Council

Loggerheads Parish Council

Market Drayton Town Council

Moreton Corbet and Lee Brockhurst Parish Council

Myddle & Broughton Parish Council

Prees Parish Council

Shawbury Parish Council

Stanton Parish Council

Stoke-on-Tern Parish Council

Chairman - Stoke-on-Tern Parish Council

Sutton-upon-Tern Parish Council

Wem Town Council

Whittington Parish Council

Shropshire Council -Longden

Shropshire Council - Wem

**RAF Shawbury:**

Wing Commander Harry Palmer

Squadron Leader Kim Leach

Squadron Leader Gary James

Chief Instructor - Defence Helicopter Flying School

Community Relations Officer

Station Flight Safety Officer

**Officers:**

Robert Greenwood

Shelley Davies

Shropshire Council – Public Protection Officer

Committee Officer

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- 1.1 Councillor Simon Jones welcomed all to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence**

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from:

Nick Hall (Astley Parish Council)

John Cooling (Cockshutt-Cum-Petton Parish Council) – Substitute David Carr  
Kinlet Parish Council

Joe Whelan (Prees Parish Council) – Substitute Ray Hirons

Bev Gee (Wem Rural Parish Council)

P. Moyse (Wem Town Council) – Substitute Connie Granger

Roger Hampson (West Felton Parish Council)

Ian Mercer (Whixall Parish Council)

**3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

- 3.1 Councillors were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

**4. Notes**

4.1 **RESOLVED:**

That the Notes of the meeting of the Helicopter Noise Liaison Group held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**5. Update by Station Commander, RAF Shawbury**

- 5.1 Squadron Leader Leach explained that the Station Commander and the Defence Helicopter Flying School Commandant were unable to attend the meeting and introduced Wing Commander Harry Palmer (Chief Instructor - Defence Helicopter Flying School) and Squadron Leader Gary James (Station Flight Safety Officer)

- 5.2 Squadron Leader Gary James noted that the Cosford Air Show was due to take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and as in previous years residents should expect to see a number of aircraft in/out of the area the day before and after the day of the event.

## **6. Update on Complaints received by RAF**

- 6.1 Squadron Leader Leach gave an explanation in relation to Low Flying Area 9 and provided an update to those present, referring to the presentation that displayed a six monthly comparison for RAF Shawbury Complaint Locations. It was explained that there were more complaints in the summer months due to longer days and that residents were more likely to be outside or have their windows open. It was noted that complaints for 2014 were down slightly compared to 2013 and a detailed breakdown of complaints for 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015 were referred to by Squadron Leader Leach.
- 6.2 In response to a query Squadron Leader Leach explained that for some types of training such as confined area training there were very limited locations available. She confirmed that RAF Shawbury vary the circuit patterns to the best of their ability to avoid intentionally over-flying specific areas and dealt with issues in a compassionate way by informing crews of specific sensitive locations.
- 6.3 Squadron Leader Leach referred to a current campaign to encourage Horse Riders to wear high visibility clothing to ensure that they can be seen by Helicopters and therefore avoided on training exercises.
- 6.4 In response to a query in relation to Air Pollution, Robert Greenwood (Shropshire Council) explained that following the last meeting he had discussed this issue with the Environmental Resilience Team and they confirmed that any air pollution would be negligible and further information was provided at minute 7.1 of the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 6.5 Squadron Leader Leach, in response to a query in relation how an area becomes exempt from being used, explained that there would have to be a very good reason for this such as a medical reason. Wing Commander Palmer added that there were a large number of rules that the trainers had to keep to and in addition to these when movements were planned a large number of other factors were also taken into account such as whether it was lambing season or whether there was a show taking place. It was agreed that information in relation to the rules and regulations concerning helicopters would be helpful for Parish Councils to display on notice boards.
- 6.6 Wing Commander Palmer responded to a query raised in relation to confined area training in the Loggerheads area and noted a major factor in the selection of the next generation of aircraft was low noise pollution levels.
- 6.7 Squadron Leader Leach gave details in relation to a Helicopter Survey that was due to be undertaken at the base and results from the survey would be shared with the group at the next meeting.
- 6.8 Discussion ensued in relation to Planning Applications and the Chairman agreed to discuss the issue with the Development Control Manager to ensure that RAF Shawbury were included as a statutory consultee on all Shropshire Planning Applications.

**7. Update on complaints received by Shropshire Council**

7.1 Rob Greenwood reported that there had been no complaints received by Shropshire Council in relation to RAF or MOD aircraft. One complaint was received in February 2015 with regards to civilian aircraft (low flying helicopter) in the Bridgnorth area.

**8. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Liaison Group would be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at RAF Shawbury, Wem Road, Shawbury at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting ended at 8.05 p.m.

**Signed .....** (Chairman)

**Dated .....**