

YATELEY COMMON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

MARCH 2025

Chris Gazzard, Managing Director. Report compiled Tuesday 11th February 2025

1. COMMON LAND EXCHANGE APPLICATION UPDATE

At the last meeting we updated the committee on the Inspector's visit on 31st October 2024. Updates on the application are posted here:

<https://www.blackbusheairport.co.uk/landexchange>

On 29th November (after chasing PINS) we received a reply asking for details on planning applications relevant to the Replacement Land (Cottage Farm). We had asked questions on timescales, as well as identifying that the S106 agreement and S193 deed would need to be signed and submitted to PINS in order for the Inspector to issue a decision, but there were no comments on this.

On 18th December we were asked to submit the S106 agreement and S193 deed in anticipation of the Inspector issuing a decision. We contacted HCC who had to also sign the S106 agreement, and they at this point identified they wanted a Foreign Legal Opinion on the S106 and Cottage Farm Holding Limited (CFHL)'s ability to enter into one. This was frustrating as HCC had already agreed the S106 content and not raised this issue earlier.

On 24th December we instructed Walkers (Guernsey) LLP to provide the opinion for HCC which was completed on 16th January. The S106 agreement was completed by HCC on 23rd January, although we did not receive a scan of it until 28th January.

On 27th January we received an email from PINS asking for clarity some technical issues regarding:

- The planning status of Cottage Farm
- The legalities of the S106 Agreement
- Asking for the signed S106 agreement and S193 Deed
- The position of HCC as highways authority with respect to the Welsh Drive.

We have provided everything requested – all of which had been previously addressed – and responded to PINS on 30th January. We are now waiting for the Inspector to consider this information

2. EVENTS

Thames Basin Heaths Partnership will be running pop-ups on the disused runways throughout the year this year.

On Saturday 2nd August they will run their 'Secrets of the Common' event again but this year will set it up on the disused runways. Parking for this will be in the airport car park.

Blackbushe Air Day: Sat 14th June – no involvement of the disused runways or surrounding areas.

Twilight Runway Challenge: Sat 20th September – with the route including the disused runways as usual.

3. TREE WORKS

Blackbushe Airport has contracted tree works with the approval of Hampshire Countryside Service to trees which penetrate the safety surfaces for the runway approaches. As in previous years, the trees are surveyed during the summer, and then works to reduce their heights are undertaken in the winter season in accordance with HCS's normal practices.

These works took place during the first week of February 2025.