

Proposed extended daytime flying hours at Leeds Bradford Airport

The main item for discussion at the WPRA committee meeting (20 Oct.) was the proposal by Leeds Bradford Airport (LBA) to seek planning permission to extend the daytime flying hours.

We agreed to contact our councillors and MP in order raise our concerns about the number of night flights and also to contact members and encourage them to also contact our councillors either supporting or opposing these proposals.

We understand that LBA are submitting a planning proposal to the council in November which will seek to increase the permitted day time flying hours. The current times are between 7am and 11pm which would be replaced by 6.30am and 11.30pm. There are no restrictions on the number of permitted day flights so the implication there could well be more early morning and late-night flights.

Currently LBA are allowed to operate 2700 night flights (between 11pm and 7am) during the summer period (April to October). If the planning application is successful these flights would be squeezed into a smaller time period.

Planes are graded by the amount of noise they create. Newer ones tend to be less noisy than the older versions. All such planes are given a 'Quota Count' (QC) number and newer planes have a score of 0.125 or 0.25. Bearing in mind that LBA have requested a total summer night time QC total of 1375 points this could result in an increase from 2700 night time flights to over 7000.

A significantly increased number of flights will result in greater choice for passengers but with the caveat of increased air and noise pollution.

Please pass on your feelings on this matter to the following

Alex Sobel (MP) at alex@alexsobel.co.uk

Cllr. Emma Flint at Emma.Flint@leeds.gov.uk

Cllr. Jools Heselwoods at Julie.Heselwood@leeds.gov.uk

Cllr. Izaak Wilson at Izaak.Wilson@leeds.gov.uk

Many thanks

Graham Sugden

Chairperson WPRA