

Hi everyone,

As promised, an update on the Airport's request for a variation of operating hours for the period of the 2012 Olympics...

At a meeting of the Executive of Bromley Council last night, the Airport's proposal for a slight increase in operating hours just for the Olympics was turned down at a meeting which, at some points, seemed to be going the Airport's way, and at other points descended into the usual depths of fantasy and scaremongering.

There was also, I understand, an offensive personal remark made against new Managing Director, Jenny Munro, last night by a Councillor during his speech, which was apparently followed up by a written apology, and the dressing down he was given in public by the Leader was appropriate and correct. Although still unacceptable, I know that Jenny accepts it unfortunately goes with the territory and that the main message today must continue to be positive about "our airport's" role within the local community and to continue to counter the lies put about by the vocal anti-airport lobby.

In a message to the Biggin Hill Airport Database (BigginHillReunited.co.uk) members who publically supported them in their bid, Jenny Munro says "My sincere thanks to you for everything your members did to demonstrate and garner support. All in all it was a very respectable result. Although this is probably the end of the Olympics saga, I see it as only the beginning of a far stronger "ownership" in the widest sense of OUR airport (applying to the 1000 or so job holders and the local businesses too), and the start of a turnaround in who actually writes the agenda for the airport and hopefully the start of a loud noise in the other ear of Councillors who only ever hear from the anti-airport lobby. We should also perhaps mention that we are aiming to protect all aircraft activity during the Family Open Day on 10th September, and will be very grateful for everyone's patience in bearing with us on any short term diversions etc."

Jenny will be sending us more details about the Open Day for inclusion in our usual end of month Newsletter...

I would just like to add my own thanks, and those of JB, to you all for your incredible support for this Olympics bid by "our airport". We all did well to help to turn this from its previous dramatic defeat in the earlier consultation to what was actually quite a 'close to even' opinion in the eyes of the Council this time - well done everyone..

John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

Below is a reproduction of the Airport's Press Release.....

OLYMPIC HOURS REJECTION OF "SERIOUS CONCERN" TO BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT

London's Biggin Hill Airport today says that the rejection of the considerably revised proposals can only be seen as a missed opportunity on behalf of the Council to showcase the Airport and our area to the maximum number of visitors, thus ensuring maximum legacy business opportunities in the future. It adds that the greater majority of local government organisations are pulling all the stops out to support the efforts of business and enterprise, precisely to ensure long lasting benefits in their respective areas.

Airport Managing Director Jenny Munro says that the Council had received a significantly higher level of support for the revised proposals, which amount to a real increase of only 5 additional operating hours per week, for 7 weeks.

“Of course I fully respect their decision, but I am extremely disappointed because we listened carefully to the feedback from the last consultation and the revisions reflected accession to virtually all of it, including no precedents. I am working hard to counter the scaremongering and misinformation which continues to be promulgated,” she says “and judging by the fact that the number of objections to this consultation fell by 50%, I know we are making progress in allaying these fears. My thanks go to the organisations who have so warmly welcomed us at recent public meetings.”

“Conversely, a massive increase in written support means that the Council must start seeing this Airport as an asset which generates hard cash for the Borough every year, and upwards of 1000 jobs. I will welcome the day, when the Council, ourselves, and our residents are fully aligned behind a sustainable business which represents a good news story in these days of economic and social challenges. I am convinced we will get there, because we all have a responsibility to the 300,000+ members of this Borough and the local economy, not just the few Airport objectors with whom I am very willing to engage constructively.”

“Our way ahead now is to make the best of the Olympics opportunities that remain in conjunction with our stakeholders and business partners. We will be on hand at the Family Open Day on 10th September to discuss any questions related to our Olympics operation and job opportunities.”

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