

Flightpath campaigners accuse airport bosses of £1m 'U-turn'

BY TOM GRANT

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LONG-SUFFERING campaigners have accused airport chiefs of being in "denial" after they appeared to U-turn on a £1million pledge for noise insulation for homes in Whitecreek.

And Whitecreek Area Noise Association (WANA) warned it may take a fatality for Glasgow Airport to finally take some action after reports of a "vortex" caused by the jumbo Emirates Dreamliner having allegedly "ripped tiles off roofs".

In 2019, before the Covid pandemic struck, airport bosses committed to spending £1 million to improve sound insulation and conditions for hundreds of homes in the area.

But veteran WANA campaigners Tam Brady and Joe Henry met airport officials last week – and told the Post afterwards that they'd been informed of a change in the airport's plans.

Mr Henry said: "Due to Covid, everything was shelved. "This is the first meeting since Covid that me and Tam had with them last week.

"And the new outlook is they are no going to bother with the 12 houses, that's getting scrapped.

"There's a denial in terms of the damage that's being done to the roofs by the Emirates planes."

The pair were told at the meeting that the airport has a bigger plan for the noise reduction measures, enlisting the help of Glasgow's Strathclyde University to investigate the vortex issue.

And when asked about the reversal of plans to help the Whitecreek residents in reducing the noise pollution, a Glasgow Airport spokesman said: "Pre-pandemic we were working on a pilot scheme with West Dunbartonshire Council, but it wasn't moving as quickly as we'd hoped and decided to move ahead with the Noise Insulation Policy.

"We intend to launch later this year. This is a positive step forward, not a negative one. This means we can get to work sooner on delivering the noise mitigation measures required."

The problems brought on by the noise levels as they land above Clydebank have been an ongoing issue for years.

And the issue appears to involve the noise exposure contours around the airport, an invisible line that shows places



Joe Henry and Tam Brady of the Whitecreek Area Noise Association and other residents have hit out at Glasgow Airport - though bosses say scrapping a pilot scheme will actually help (Pics - Connor Bryce)

where people get the same amounts of noise from the aircraft during a given period.

"This is the lowest (contour) axis before the airport," Mr Henry said of Whitecreek.

"They've got an area which they cover that the planes come in, and they are meant to take the decibel levels and the height levels, that's the contour it comes in."

The World Health Organisation has previously stated any noise above an average of 45-decibels can cause health problems and anything over 63-decibel levels should be soundproofed, with the same organisation also adding that excessive noise levels damage health.

And Mr Brady of WANA explained the noise can get much louder than that.

He said: "There was a study and the figures showed that this area, for the contour purposes, was 65.9, one short of 66.

"They won't accept the figures."

According to the aviation noise tracking website Explane.org, last month, the average noise level of registered planes in the G81 postcode area was 76.3 decibels.

Mr Henry added: "They are arguing the case against the damages that are being done to the roof.

"We've been sitting across



"There's a denial in terms of the damage that's being done"

Joe Henry from the Whitecreek Area Noise Association

the table, and we are saying to them, 'these people it happened to are coming to us, we didn't go to them,' because we are community councillors.

"There was a guy round on Henderson Street, Mr Calligan, his skylight got ripped right out his roof with the suction of the plane."

Councillor Danny Lennie, who is due to meet the group this week, said:

"The long-suffering residents of Whitecreek believed in all good faith they would be getting good soundproof windows. That has always been my understanding.

"If, and bear in mind I was not present [at the meeting with airport officials], this much-needed improvement has been withdrawn, then that cannot be acceptable."

"If the project is withdrawn, it is nothing more than a slap in the face for the residents and the very hard-working campaigners."

Court 'breach'

A MAN has been arrested for allegedly breaching his bail conditions whilst in Dalmair Park.

The 42-year-old was charged by cops after the reported incident on May 6. He was held in custody to appear at Dumbarton Sheriff Court at a later date.

Drug charge

AN 18-YEAR-OLD has been charged with allegedly being in possession of cannabis in North Drumry.

The man was reportedly caught with the drug whilst on Kirksowald Drive on the evening of May 6. He was reported to the procurator fiscal for the alleged offence.

Man punched

A MAN has been given a recorded police warning after punching another man in the face at a shop in Clydebank.

According to police, the 57-year-old had a pop at his victim at the property on Kilbowie Road on Friday, May 6.

PUBLIC NOTICE MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 BOWLING REMEDIATION PROJECT: REVETMENT CONSTRUCTION AND OBB REMOVAL

Notice is hereby given that DEME Environmental plans to hold a pre-application consultation event regarding a marine licence for the construction of a new rock armour revetment (river wall) and removal of the existing oleophilic bio barrier (OBB) at the Former Oil Terminal Site, Bowling Remediation Site (Dumbarton Road, G60 5BP).

The consultation event will take place online via Microsoft Teams. The event will take place on 5th July 2022 between 1pm and 4pm and will provide an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to consider and comment on the prospective application.

Any person wishing to participate in the pre-application consultation for the proposed development may do so by contacting admin.bowling@deme-group.com by 28th June 2022. Event invites will be then provided by email.

Persons may also submit questions via the above email address, further to which a response will be provided. Alternately questions may be submitted by post to:
DEME Environmental
Former Oil Terminal Site
Dumbarton Road, Bowling, G60 5BP

Please note that the comments made to DEME Environmental are not representations to Marine Scotland. Once the application has been submitted there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to Marine Scotland