

### **Noise Management Board**

As highlighted in my last update, much of my time, of late, has been taken up with my Community Noise Group rep role on the Review Committee and the aftermath of the Committee's report to the NMB. The NMB review committee was charged with taking the lessons learned from the NMB's first three year term to develop a structure and Terms of Reference which would give the future NMB the best chance of delivering the noise reduction communities are looking for. The review was completed in early May and presented at NMB 14 on 8th May. From a community perspective, the review process itself was extremely difficult with the key points of the Terms of Reference being drafted very much in support of the airport's vision for the way forward and, apart from myself, little challenge was made to Gatwick's views. During NMB 14 two key issues were debated at length:

1. Gatwick's refusal to commit to the development of any overall noise reduction targets
2. The reduction in Community Group representation on the new NMB's primary decision making body, the NMB Executive Board (NEX).

**Given Gatwick's continued refusal to commit to the NMB being a target setting forum and their clear desire to increase the influence of Council representatives, at the expense of CNGs, we were unable to support the motion to approve the proposed Terms of Reference which consequently failed to meet the required 75% approval. As a result, the Chairman chose to wind up the current NMB leaving Gatwick to determine how they wished to move forward with community engagement. Gatwick have since expressed their intention to continue with the NMB, using the Terms of Reference suggested by the review. Such an approach would clearly see the role of the community noise groups marginalised which would be concerning as historically it has been the CNGs who have initiated and led much of the debate with the airport. Clearly a disappointing outcome**