

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**ROCHESTER AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (RACC)
REPORT 2013-14**

There was one meeting during the year which was held on 24th July 2013.

Notes from the meeting:-

New airport signs had been placed on the Bridgewood Manor & Lord Lees Roundabouts.

RACC now has an "official" website hosted on the Rochester Airport website. This provides more detail on the make-up of RACC and the work that it does.

The main part of the meeting was the discussion of the Rochester Airport Master Plan which was currently under public consultation. Members of the RACC had attended public consultation meetings at the invitation of Medway Council and were able to provide detailed information to visitors. Approximately 200 people attended, with around 100 objecting to the proposals. As there was a lot of misinformation being discussed the Council agreed to meet with Rochester Airport PLC (RAPLC). Some of these issues were discussed.

Medway Aircraft Preservation Group described the work they were doing on the restoration of a Shorts Scion. The next project for the group was a Lysander. MAPS were keen supporters of the development of the airport as it would enable them to take on more than one project at a time and could open the way for their vision of an Aviation and Heritage Centre to become reality.

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Developments since the July meeting include:-

Rochester Airport PLC has had their 25 year lease confirmed and in January 2014 the Airport Master Plan was adopted by the full Medway Council.

Heavy rainfall and poor weather put paid to a lot of activity at the airport over the winter months. The new runway cannot come a moment too soon!

The future:-

The planning application for the new runway and infrastructure works will be submitted this summer and a positive result is hoped for by the end of the year. RAPLC will then aim to have the tarmac runway laid as soon as practically possible.

*Cllr Nigel Tiller
May 2014*