

## Devon Air Ambulance Trust

Mrs Angela Snell  
Clerk to Burrington Parish Council  
Aylescott Farm  
Burrington  
Umberleigh  
North Devon EX37 9LH

4 December 2017

Ref: Devon Air Ambulance – Eaglescott Airbase

Dear Angela,

I am writing to inform Burrington Parish Council about two developments that Devon Air Ambulance (DAA) would like to undertake at Eaglescott Airbase and the reasons for those changes.

In 2009, DAA was granted planning permission (application No: 49009) for the 'Erection of a hangar with ancillary offices, helicopter pad, parking and infrastructure at Eaglescott Airfield'. That permission was granted with several conditions and it is two of these that we now seek to change:

- \* Condition 5 states: Flying activity from the landing pad hereby approved shall not occur between the hours of 9.00pm and 7.00am.
- \* Condition 8 states: The lighting provision shown on the approved drawings shall be provided only during the hours of operations as referred to in Condition 5 of this consent.

### Why change Condition 5?

Devon Air Ambulance wishes to change this condition to reflect our current and future operational requirements. The Exeter-based aircraft now operates until midnight every day (covering the entire county of Devon) and we will be further extending night operations to 3am in 2018. We therefore expect that, at times, we may need to utilise the helipad at Eaglescott outside of the existing permitted hours to:

- Refuel - the site offers our crew the opportunity to refuel at night and given the increased distances / flight times the Exeter-based aircraft is now undertaking this is may be an important aspect of our crew's ability to plan and deliver emergency flights.
- Deliver Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) flights - our approach to night operations is to use surveyed floodlit night landing sites. The airbase at Eaglescott could be utilised as a night landing site by a land ambulance crew bringing a patient for onward transfer to hospital, or our paramedics could be collected for transfer to a patient.
- As a temporary stop-off location - if deemed necessary for an aviation or safety requirement (e.g. if bad weather sets in at short notice), the helipad at Eaglescott would provide a known safe location

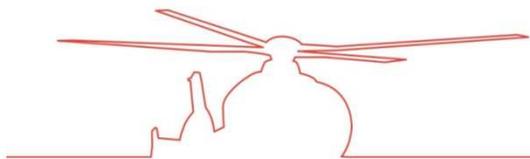


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for landing at night.

Using Eaglescott in any of these instances between 9pm and 7am could see us in breach of Condition 5. Given our current and future HEMS operational hours, DAA will be asking Torridge District Council (TDC) to remove this condition to enable our night operations to be carried out.

### Why change Condition 8?

The current lighting array at the DAA airbase site does not fully illuminate the important areas of the airbase - namely the helipad, building and car park. The current floodlighting consists of three floodlights to illuminate the helipad and one floodlight to illuminate one side of the building. Those lights are deemed insufficient for night operations for example when making an approach and landing during poorer visibility or to unload and transfer a patient from a land ambulance to aircraft.

We now seek to upgrade the floodlighting on the building to consist of (please see plan included):

- 3 x 200 watt floodlights to illuminate the helipad
- 3 x 150 watt floodlights along each side of the building to illuminate building
- 2 x 80 Watt floodlights to illuminate the car park for emergency vehicle parking and patient transfer point

The floodlights will be angled to do the job required - illuminate the landing area, base of the building sides and car park and will not be pointed upwards or out beyond the areas needing illumination. These new floodlights, as well as the existing ground mounted helipad lights, will all be controlled via a GSM switch and will only be used as and when needed and for minimal time required.

In practice, if the crew needed to land at Eaglescott at night, the HEMS dispatcher or aircrew would activate the lights prior to their arrival. On leaving the site, the lights would be turned off in the same manner. As the current level of lighting is not sufficient for our night operations, and linked to removing Condition 5 of the DAA planning consent, we will be asking TDC to remove Condition 8.

To change these conditions, Devon Air Ambulance will be making an application to TDC and this application has been discussed with Shaun Harrington TDC Planning. If you would like any further information or have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Toby Russell  
Community Landing Sites Development Officer

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