

Report on Seaplane Marine Risk Meeting 25/4/18

The meeting last night was well attended. We met Ben Hill, again, his advisers (Peter Evans, Guillaume Fortin from Harbour Airlines), also William Heaps and Paul Fuller from Marico and Bill Sadler, Harbourmaster.

It was disappointing because we learned absolutely no new specific information about runways, flight paths etc. It was clear that so far they have only looked at this in general terms. That includes the Clear Harbour team who say they are currently in the process of working up the detail.

The general idea seems to be that aircraft will not have a designated runway and will land in whichever part of the small roads or outside that works on a given day. They say that the plane will always circle to check the area first and that it will never land or take off if there is a boat in the way.

They certainly got a lot of feedback from the floor, and if they had a planned agenda it quickly fell by the wayside because almost every time they started to explain something they got politely interrupted with intelligent questions. In the end William Heaps made his introductory comments about Marico right at the end of the meeting!

All concerned must by now have a well developed sense that if you are going to have this service, it must be safe and if its going to be safe then there must be disruption, especially at busy times. **The important issue is - Who gets disrupted? The boats or the planes?**

I think that the next step is for all concerned to lobby the Ports of Jersey people to ensure that when the full risk assessment is complete and the control procedures are determined, they share this with us & we get another consultation meeting to discuss it. Bill Sadler said that this would happen Definitely Maybe!

Will Simpson
Chairman STHBOA
26/4/18