

From: [Alan Pearson](#)
To: [Luton Airport](#)
Subject: Objection to Luton Airport Expansion
Date: 12 August 2023 15:22:07

Sirs,

Having been present in the room for the 11th August Open Floor Hearing I have decided to make a written submission. Please take due account of my continuing objection. I have previously made my comments as below verbally some years ago at a consultation meeting held by the airport in The Jubilee Centre in St Albans.

As precedent please note that Croydon, Hendon, Radlett, Leavesden, Bovingdon, Panshanger and Hatfield airfields are all closed. On a similar basis there is little reason why the same should not happen to Luton Airport. It is a noisy disruptive neighbour to all its surrounding communities. Operations at Luton should be scaled back, not increased.

When we first moved to St Albans in 1989 we were under the BAe regular HS146 flights from Hatfield to Wharton. Perhaps twice per day we'd have the private "whisper jet" low overhead as it took off from Hatfield in a SW direction and turned toward the north as it climbed. Such infrequent interruptions during daylight were just acceptable.

The current situation at Luton is uncomfortable for us. We are woken most days by flights at 05.50h and seldom get back to sound sleep.

We live 3Km S of Heartwood Forest/Sandridge. With the usual take-off routing the planes make a steep turn over Slip End and at nearest approach to us are climbing through 5000' and accelerating through 270Kts. By Pythagoras the nearest approach to us on the usual line is 11,000' but the noise continues for some minutes as they climb and accelerate away to the E.

We have some road noise from the 30mph Sandpit Lane, a major thoroughfare 500' to our N, This has little effect on our quiet enjoyment of our property. Sadly the same cannot be said at current flight regularities of the planes leaving Luton, particularly those at anti-social hours.

St Albans planners insist that building works operate only M-F 07.30-18.00h and Sat 08.00-13.00h. Luton Airport's operations are completely out of step with this reasonable restriction which aims to preserve some measure of tranquility in the residential areas. Why is this permitted??

Of course noise from overflying aeroplanes is not restricted to those from Luton. If Heathrow is operating to the E then we are directly overflown at modest altitude by a procession of transatlantic flights. It is instructive to view Flightradar24 to identify overflying aircraft from Stansted, Gatwick and many others too. However, even on current numbers it is by far the Luton departures that provide the greatest intrusion.

We also enjoy leisure time in the areas to the north of St Albans. As a cyclist it was particularly enjoyable during the Covid restrictions to cycle a route including Whitwell to Lilley and the hills around Breachwood Green. Tranquility, birds singing, pleasant to be out in the country. Contrast that with today and unwelcome aircraft noise. And it is proposed that that is to be nearly doubled!

Far from acquiescing to this application to increase flights from Luton perhaps the

Planning Inspectorate could refer the airport authorities back to their previous application and insist on them meeting the undertakings made when expansion to 18m passengers p.a. by 2028 was allowed. As LADACAN's submission, the balance needs to be toward mitigation not growth.

Please reject the proposal.

Alan Pearson.

