

**Caroline Bowes Lyon IP Reference 20040288**

As Events Manager at St Paul's Walden Bury I welcome this hearing so I can explain the damaging effect airport expansion would have on our business, on the celebrated Grade 1 listed landscape garden which attracts thousands of visitors each year, and on the quality of life of thousands of people in Luton and surrounding areas.

St Paul's Walden Bury is 3 miles east of the runway, just south of the flight path. It is open to the public. (Website [stpaulswaldenbury.co.uk](http://stpaulswaldenbury.co.uk)). As well as being a wedding venue which gives employment to local people we host cultural events, both commercial and charitable. Thousands of people visit our garden each year, and also come to have tours of the house. As well as being architecturally interesting this was the home of the late Queen Mother.

We have had filming in the garden earlier this year, but aircraft noise was very disruptive and any increase would discourage further filming. Aircraft noise also interferes significantly in outdoor plays, which have to pause for a few minutes in mid stream as planes come over. We have already curtailed other events and no longer have outdoor concerts. If there is further expansion of the airport this could lead us to abandon cultural activities. It would also spoil the enjoyment of this celebrated garden, to the detriment of the quality of life of thousands of people.