

1st paragraph

Introduction.

2nd paragraph

SLAE are not opposed to the airport operating at up to 18 million passengers and the airport 'as it currently is' but we oppose any expansion that takes away the current Wigmore Valley Park footprint. Our group was founded to save the park following a meeting when representatives from Luton Borough Council told members of our group that the park would not be built over for airport expansion.

3rd paragraph

Evidence RR a. Although the applicant and Luton Borough Council (LBC) define a boundary between their Ltd company and Council, this is not clear cut. Historically Labour have not had an elected Councillor representing the Wigmore Ward, which is the closest ward to the airport and the party do not represent Wigmore resident views. **Evidence RR b.** In January 2019 two Liberal Democrat councillors resigned their seats on the board of Luton Rising. **Evidence RR c.** In March of this year, Anne Donelan (Labour Councillor & a Barrister) was not selected to represent Labour in Luton's Northwell ward and we submit her letter as Evidence_of exposing planning practice.

4th paragraph

LR Councillor Directors struggled to find Wigmore Valley park.

5th paragraph

Evidence RR a. & Evidence RR d (clarification). Of the current LR board, no Luton Councillor lives within the wards most closely impacted by the expansion.

6th paragraph

SLAE challenges Luton Rising, the applicants consultants and the councillors of Luton Borough Council who think it such a acceptable idea to expand the airport to live under the flight path in the ward of South Luton in un-insulated accommodation for the six month period. 'Walk the walk' and experience the up to 18 million passenger experience.

7th paragraph

SLAE also asks that the majority councillor directorship of Luton Rising consist of councillors living within the adjoining wards closest to the airport

8th paragraph

Evidence RR f. Recently we wrote to the interim Luton Rising CEO asking for £65 million (the amount of funds set aside by Luton Council for the DCO application), to help us provide a balanced view of the airport expansion application. Our request was turned down.

9th paragraph

SLAE would like to check with the Planning Inspectorate that the health and well being of all those involved (Applicants, Consultants, Planning Inspectorate and all 'Interested Parties') will be of prime consideration throughout the examination process. It is suggested that health provision is made available and funded by the applicant.

10th paragraph

Evidence OFH2 a. Reading the letters of support for the application SLAE are not sure that the difference between the current 18 million and proposed 32 million is clearly understood. SLAE suggest that if 'Green Control Growth' (GCG) will be passed into law, a similar law be put in place to protect charitable financial benefits. SLAE are concerned that if DCO approval is given that financial benefits may change and are surprised that protection is not included in the DCO application in detail. **Evidence RR g.** Are these supporters aware if any of the organisations providing this funding to them are in debt? **Evidence RR h.** Why have airport donations to charities has gone down over the past few years and the council continue to cuts support to services which pushes people towards charitable help.

11th paragraph

No longer relevant.

12th paragraph

No longer relevant.

13th paragraph

The application documentation is a long and difficult read by the majority population of Luton and this could put people off of registering. **Evidence RR j.** The applicant has documented that educational attainment is generally lower across Luton. **Evidence RR k.** We would also expect the applicant to name the audiences that the application is aimed at and expected educational attainment required to contribute.

14th paragraph

Evidence RR m. Many repeated paragraphs, paragraphs written that are impossible to understand without a clear explanation. **Evidence RR n.** There are contradictions, incomplete sentences due to redactions and technical jargon that is only second nature to paid expert consultants. **Evidence RR p.** A lack of consistency is a general theme, with some documents having glossaries, others not, acronyms missing, references at the bottom, throughout the documents and some a mixture. **Evidence RR q.** Dated references over a decade old (discounting Government policy or laws). **Evidence RR r.** References requiring personal details. **Evidence RR s.** Documents with the text "Error! Reference source not found". **Evidence RR t.** Documents written in different styles, by different companies, some have competent experts listed and others don't. Does this mean those documents were not written by competent experts? **Evidence RR u.** Documents with no consistent titles depending on whether the source was Microsoft Word or other applications. Different formatting. **Evidence RR v.** No clear definition of what content is actual Evidence_or not. **Evidence RR n.** Some have a reference number with no reference found or not available when searching the reference material.

15th paragraph

Evidence RR x. The Application quotes the National Planning Policy Framework (PPF) when it comes to home-based workers, who will be exposed to noise 24 hours each day. This subject is not covered or recognised in the DCO application. Working from home is now a key selling point in job ads when attracting applicants. Without adequate insulation from flight path noise an applicant would be hesitant to apply for a role with home working requirements and this could be seen as discrimination.

16th paragraph

Desk-Based Assessments don't capture residents ward knowledge and there are omissions from the application. Evidence RR y, Evidence ya, Evidence yb. Two local road issues missed and (Evidence WVPa) the new park and playground have not been properly thought about.

17th paragraph

Green Horizons Park, was New Century Park until it was decided that it was no longer viable. Evidence GHP a. The amended footprint means that Green Horizons Park can now be built on brown belt land to the South West of the airport. A greater area of Wigmore Valley park could be retained, and could even involve a redesign of the expansion to save the County Wildlife Site. Evidence GHP b. The public was never consulted on the re-naming and re-sizing of Green Horizons Park, and unable to suggest improvements. SLAE think it perfectly reasonable for another SIFT exercise to be done.

18th paragraph

We suggest that the DCO be split by phases and after implementation of each phase another DCO application is applied for. Evidence RR ac. If we look at the number of major revision changes from each Statutory consultation and this DCO application then the application improves at each phase, perhaps even realising that expansion is not a good thing and the need to save the park and County Wildlife Site.

19th paragraph

Brexit, Covid, Volcanic Ash events, current economic situation and inflation rises, worker strikes, local, national and International climate change, huge local council job losses, and the war in Ukraine. All have impacted the aviation industry, with the majority of those unexpected and unplanned events. Evidence RR ad. Aviation is very susceptible to unplanned and rapidly changing national and international events and with slow recovery periods. In fact, Luton Rising's continuously delayed DCO submission proves how susceptible aviation is and the need to re-visit the SIFT options. Evidence RR ae. SLAE are also surprised to find that there is minimal provision found in the DCO application of how aviation susceptibility would impact the aviation economics and impact on jobs.

20th paragraph

Evidence RR af. SLAE do not see good options provided in the application if the minor, moderate or major significant scenarios end up in practice to be opposite to those documented and the true mitigation solution. The documentation set is heavily biased towards 'minor'.

21st paragraph

Evidence RR ag. SLAE understand that the Local Luton Plan is a legal document, however there are contradictions within and the council seemly applies the plan when it wants to. All references to the Local Plan should be removed from the application.

22nd paragraph

Evidence RR ah. What is the true definition, of "local" in National Planning Law. Its use and meaning varies depending what Luton Rising, Luton Borough Council, residents and groups such as ours want it to mean. SLAE ask that all references using the word 'local' be removed from the DCO application and all referenced material, or that the context is explained and easily understandable in meaning.

23rd paragraph

Investment in, and upkeep of Wigmore Valley Park has been left by the council over the years to make the land more attractive to the expansion to Luton Rising.

Evidence WVPb. Let's look at the Pavilion and the children's play area.

24th paragraph

Will local amenities offered to the residents will be cut back when it comes to local planning decisions made after the DCO application process has completed? **Evidence RR aj.**

Evidence WVPb. The majority ruling political party of the Development Control Committee always passes airport plans, none are ever refused. If GCG can be passed into law, so can Wigmore Valley Park amenities and protection, and not a later stage. **Evidence RR ak.** The council has committed to progressing deed of dedication arrangements with the 'Fields in Trust' charity and the current Wigmore Valley Park must be top of the list and before the DCO application is decided.

25th paragraph

Evidence RR am. Are the application maps consistent? It doesn't appear so.

26th paragraph

Evidence RR an. There are numerous references to the Lead Contractor, SLAE assume this will be Ryebriidge.

27th paragraph

SLAE have challenges to nearly all of the subject material in almost all of the applicants documents which we are happy to explore during the examination.



Liberal Democrats

London Luton Airport Ltd – Liberal Democrat directors resign.

“We will not be gagged” says Liberal Democrat leader Cllr. David Franks.

The two Liberal Democrat directors on the board of the Council owned airport company have resigned saying they have been told they are not allowed to publicly criticise decisions of the board with which they strongly disagree.

“We have consistently opposed and voted against plans to build on Wigmore Valley Park and to make Ashcroft Road & Wigmore Lane major access routes to the airport,” says Cllr. David Franks. “We are also seriously concerned that not enough is being done to deal with the effects of air pollution on the health of thousands of children attending schools near the airport and the flight paths.”

“Now, we have been told lawyers say we are not allowed to publicly disagree with and criticise the decisions with which we have a sincere and serious concern unless the Labour members of the board agree that we may do so. This is a situation with which we cannot and will not live. We will not be gagged so we have both resigned from the board with immediate effect.”

ENDS. 23rd January 2019. David Franks 07909 935979.

Councillors Alan Skepelhorn and David Franks, the two Liberal Democrat members of the board of directors of London Luton Airport Limited have resigned from the board with immediate effect. Their action is fully supported by the Liberal Democrat local party and by their fellow councillors. The text of their resignation emails follows:

You know we strongly disagree with the decision of the board to build on Wigmore Valley Park. You know we strongly disagree with the decision of the board to make Ashcroft Road and Wigmore Lane major access routes for the airport. You know we are not satisfied enough air quality monitoring is to be undertaken to establish what needs to be done to protect the neighbouring residents and particularly the health & wellbeing of the thousands of children who attend schools near the airport and/or the flight

paths. You know that we are concerned that not enough work is being undertaken to reduce noise pollution.

Now, you are saying your lawyers say we are not allowed to publicly disagree with and criticise the decisions with which we have a sincere and serious concern unless the Labour members of the board agree that we may do so. This is a situation with which we cannot and will not live.

Please note my resignation from the board of London Luton Airport Limited with immediate effect and register my resignation with Companies House.

I have discussed this situation with my Liberal Democrat colleagues, and they have decided that they will not be nominating a replacement candidate for the board. This means all decisions henceforth will be made by Labour and Tory councillors and I will be free to criticise them as much as I feel I need to. Please acknowledge receipt of this.

Published and promoted by David Franks on behalf of Luton Liberal Democrats, both at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



1 / 4

I was disappointed not to be reselected as a councillor for Northwell ward in Luton. However, it was not a great surprise as the Labour Party NEC panel together with a regional observer held the selections and a report was provided by the Luton Labour Group. There were rumours of involvement from the town's two Labour MPs and judging by the number of MPs' staff and associates placed in safe Labour wards it appears there may be some truth in this rumour.

Luton North and Luton South CLPs were placed in special measures in July 2021, but the Labour Party has known about the alleged member stacking for years. I was Vice Chair of the Local Campaign Forum and Vice Chair of Luton North CLP before the selections in 2018 for the 2019 local council elections and we were aware of these allegations then. Either the Labour Party management is ineffectual or it's convenient to remain in special measures for the NEC to select the councillors in February 2023 for the local council elections in May 2023 and not the local Labour Party members. I was fortunate to be one of the two Labour councillors in one of the safest Labour wards in the town and I'm quietly confident that my colleague and I would have been reselected if the Labour members could have voted. It would have been much harder to remove sitting councillors if the membership of the Labour party could vote. It is much easier to have an application form and a 10-minute interview over Teams conducted by the NEC.

Once I was aware that local Labour Party members were not voting in the selections, I was not surprised to be deselected given that I had resigned from the Labour Group in April 2021 and had permanently “blotted my copybook” with the ruling clique within our Luton Labour Group.

I resigned the Labour Whip for two reasons:

(i) Due to the incompetence and failure to follow rules and procedures which I observed on the planning committee. Unfortunately, independent thought is not encouraged in the Luton Labour Group. You are encouraged to stand up for your residents’ interests only if they align with the wishes of the councillors who control the Group. However, if your residents approach you and wish you to help them with something that is contrary to certain councillors’ views it is made clear to you that this is not the way things are done within the Labour Group. Firstly, there is a “quiet word in your ear” from a portfolio holder, then from the Whip, then a formal complaint to the Whip and then a formal complaint to Standards at the Council containing allegations completely lacking in merit, with 18 other staff (officers) and councillors copied into the email.

A very cavalier attitude was displayed by certain Labour councillors to following rules and procedures on the planning committee, and I often had to remind certain fellow Labour councillors of the need to adhere to the rules. The most egregious example included a discussion in an email chain with one senior member of the planning committee discussing with a portfolio holder how he was going to vote prior to a forthcoming full council meeting. This was blatantly ignoring the requirement for the members of the planning committee to base their decision on the representations made at the meeting and to not be pre-

determined. This conversation followed the portfolio holder circulating documentation which was also contrary to the rules as this should be circulated through the officers.

We have a code of conduct that we should follow as councillors and that includes acting with integrity and not turning a blind eye when rules and procedures are being flouted. As a member of the planning committee, I believed that the residents deserved a fair hearing and both applicants and objectors deserved to be treated equally. For standing up and ensuring that this was the case I was reported to our Group Whip.

The complaint about me to Standards at the Council was made after I asked for a site visit at a planning meeting and this led to some Labour colleagues on the planning committee trying to ignore protocol and precedent and moving to a vote on a planning application in Northwell ward, when I wished to have a site visit to properly understand the application. We are meant to consider and scrutinise applications and not simply waive them through or rubber stamp them. It transpired that the application contained inaccurate information which was why I was having difficulty understanding the same. When I quite properly acted on behalf of my residents within the rules life on the planning committee was made increasingly difficult.

I made a formal complaint to the Whip copying in the Leader detailing the above and numerous other concerns including being shouted at on several occasions. I also complained that in planning meetings residents were shouted at and derogatory comments were made to certain residents if they opposed the officers' recommendations.

You can probably guess where this is going, the Leader removed me from the planning committee in April 2021. As a consequence, I resigned the Labour Whip. This is before Luton was placed in special

measures and when the residents still had a vote and when I was effectively giving up all chances of being a councillor in the next council election, as Independents tend not to be elected in Luton. I felt that it was pointless to remain in the Labour Group when you could not effectively represent your residents' views.

The Whip and the Chair contacted me and asked if I really wanted to be an Independent. I replied that I was not making up the numbers in a Labour Group when the Leader was removing someone who was calling out the way protocols and rules were flouted and when I was actually doing the job for which I was elected, in effect I was a whistleblower. I was re-instated to the planning committee, and I decided to remain in the Labour Group as I felt I would have more of a positive effect changing things from within.

After three years on planning, I moved to Children's Scrutiny to try to see whether Luton could obtain funding for Pause. Children's Services is trying to secure £300,000.00 in funding as a result of my intervention. My family law Facebook friends will be aware of how essential this resource is. To my non legal Facebook friends this programme works with women who have previously had children removed from their care and provides support to hopefully ensure that any future children they may have can grow up in their birth family. This work to secure funding is continuing as I leave my role as a councillor. I pointed this out to the NEC and how important it was for some residents in Luton, but they were uninterested.

(ii) I have continually called out the bullying and misogyny which is endemic in the Luton Labour Group and is carried out by certain male councillors and activists. The Leader did organise an away day in June 2021 specifically to deal with bullying when someone close to her detailed her experiences, and it transpired that several female councillors had been subjected to the same. However unfortunately this had little effect, the bullying and misogyny continues because there is no leadership shown in dealing with this and fellow councillors are aware that you get nowhere if you speak out.

Last year I got involved in a WhatsApp spat with an activist, when I was singled out for different treatment in a group of over 80 people (which included councillors/ activists and at least one of our MPs). I called out this activist's unacceptable comments towards me but as he worked for one of our MPs and as the rumours were rife regarding the MPs' involvement in the selection process, not one councillor in our Labour Group said anything. It is clear that some are more equal than others in the Luton Labour Party.

Another female councillor came to me with an allegation of misogynistic behaviour regarding this activist, she had been to our Leader who had done nothing, and she came to me. She did not want to be named as she was worried about the consequences, but she was happy for me to tell the Group about her allegation. This is our Luton Labour Group where we are meant to support each other. However, the Labour NEC selections had been left hanging over councillors' heads for months and no one wanted to make waves. When I said in an email to the Group that it was a collective failure of our Group if one of our own did not feel she could publicly raise her concerns or discuss her allegation, yet again there was absolutely no public support. A couple of councillors approached me privately, but no one would speak out.

There are some lovely councillors in the Labour Group, but the problem is that there is absolutely no leadership when it matters and if the ruling clique control everything people will say nothing. This is because the idea that you may not get that portfolio/ committee Chair or worst of all not be reselected as a councillor is unthinkable. The manoeuvring and machinations employed to regularly try to oust the Leader together with when the Leader decides which portfolio holders are losing their positions and which ones are now going to be in favour has often left me feeling that if as much

effort went into looking after our residents, they would be much better served by our Group. Too few councillors realise we are there to serve the residents, it is not about status and not just about running round with our lanyards calling ourselves Councillor X and posing for endless photo opportunities.

I never put myself forward for a portfolio, I simply did not have the time and I'm proud to say that despite the increasingly frantic and disproportionate attempts of some councillors to shut me up their attempts to bring pressure to bear on me to stop what I was doing did not work. I continued to stand up for the residents when their issues were certainly not aligned with those of the Leadership, and this is continuing to this day. I work as a family law barrister, and I represent some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in our society and I am not going to be bullied into submission by a few councillors who like the status quo and do not want anyone trying to fight for the residents if it does not accord with their views on a particular issue.

4 / 4

Our Labour Group will not do anything that may involve a risk to a councillor's position in the Group. Instead, the Group engages in gesture politics, including wearing something red to a Group meal in aid of Women's Aid but then saying absolutely nothing about female councillors within their own group who are being subjected to misogynistic behaviour.

Recently the Group had a Corporate Parenting training session where we talked about how we should care for the children in our town who have been removed from their parents' care, (which is of course immensely important, and these children deserve to be looked after well). In this meeting certain Labour councillors were very animated about what we could do for these children, we must be aspirational and show leadership and we should be mentors and role models. These same

councillors were aware that bullying and misogyny was continuing within our Group and yet they would do nothing to try and address this. I believe that it is also incumbent upon us to put our own house in order.

My main concern is that in our Labour Group there are attempts to actively prevent you from advancing the causes and issues the residents come to you for help with. You don't choose which issues the residents will raise with you, but you do choose whether you will fight their corner without fear or favour, or whether you will just make enough of an effort to look as if you have tried to promote their cause.

I tried to change things and I was prepared to stay for another four years as you cannot change things from the outside. I stood up for the residents, I didn't turn my head when I saw their rights being flouted and I didn't tolerate what I knew was wrong.

Indeed, I believe that if you are in a position such as a councillor and you know things are being done that are not appropriate by other Labour councillors whether on your planning committee or in the Group regarding bullying and misogyny it's your duty to speak out and call it out and to try and change it.

I've read on the BBC website that I am standing as an Independent, that's not true, I'm sitting as an Independent councillor, but I will not be standing as an Independent in the May council elections.

My head is held high, I stood up for the residents and my conscience is clear. When I was elected in May 2019 I promised to promote and safeguard their interests and I have done this. For every negative there is a positive and I will not have to read any more emails starting "Dear Comrade" and ending "In Solidarity" from certain people who could not display more uncomradely behaviour if they tried. I did my best and now I no longer must be part of the Orwellian dystopia which is the Luton Labour Group.

Chris Haden

From: "LutonRising Future Luton" <FutureLuton@lutonrising.org.uk>
Date: Friday, May 26, 2023 12:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Funding for the DCO

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your emails to Nick Prowse, our Interim Managing Director. Nick has passed these to me as I am coordinating our responses to queries regarding our application for a Development Consent Order. Please see our answers to your queries below.

In response to your comment about a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) with host local authorities, PPAs are commonly used with large-scale planning applications due to the pressure they can put on local authority resources in discharging their statutory duties relating to such applications. The duties on local authorities in responding to a DCO application within its boundaries can be significant. In fulfilling their statutory obligations in this regard, such host authorities act on behalf of the citizens of their administrative areas.

Your request for Luton Rising to provide funds to groups opposing our proposals is, as you will of course understand, respectfully declined. We have invested heavily in preparing our application, a significant proportion of which has been in undertaking several large-scale consultations on our proposals to better understand the views of stakeholders. On each occasion we have taken on board feedback received and used that to inform the further development of our proposals as they have progressed.

An important aspect of the process is that the application must set out the negative aspects of the proposals and how these are to be mitigated as well as the benefits. The application has been checked by the Planning Inspectorate and found to be of a standard which is suitable to progress to examination in public.

That examination will be presided over by an independent Examining Authority appointed by the Planning Inspectorate. The Examining Authority will consist of a panel of five inspectors, all well versed in interrogating large-scale planning applications. It is their role to ensure that the examination is as robust and completely independent and they will consider all representations made, from all sides in determining the focus of the examination. It is the role of the Examining Authority to ensure that there is a fair, balanced and just discussion of the relative benefits and disbenefits of the application. They will ultimately make their recommendation(s) to the Secretary of State based on the Planning Balance (i.e. do the benefits outweigh the disbenefits of the application or not?).

At Luton Rising we welcome discussion and debate as we see this as a means both to explain why we take the view we do, but also to listen and learn from those who have different views to our own so that even where fundamental differences of view exist we can still strive to narrow the differences between us. As such I would encourage you to make your views known to the Planning Inspectorate by making a Relevant Representation, thereby ensuring that your views are put before the Examining Authority and informing the public debate to come through the examination process.

Chris Hall
Communications & Engagement Manager
For Luton Rising

From: Chris SLAE [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 May 2023 22:28

To: Prowse, Nick (LutonRising) [REDACTED]
Cc: Porter, Robin (Chief Exec) [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Funding for the DCO

<CAUTION: This email came from an external source - only open links and attachments you are expecting>

Nick,

Hi, I thought I'd follow up on the email I sent earlier in May 2023 in case it didn't reach your mailbox for any reason. I'm sure that with £65 million of public money that Stop Luton Airport Expansion group could provide a fair, balanced and competent expert representation to oppose the expansion when the DCO application reaches the examination stage.

Many thanks

Chris Haden

From: Chris SLAE
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 9:04 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Funding for the DCO

Nick,

With reports that up to £65 million of public money has been made available for Luton Rising to submit the Luton Airport Expansion DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate. I'd like to request that similar public funds are also made available to those Luton groups opposing expansion so that there is a fair, balanced and just competent expert representation when the application reaches the examination stage.

It is understood that hundreds of thousands of pounds of public money has been made available to other public authorities for Planning Performance Agreements.

Many thanks

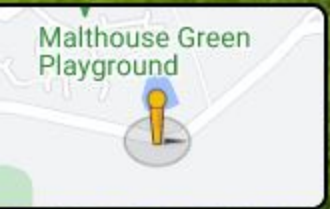
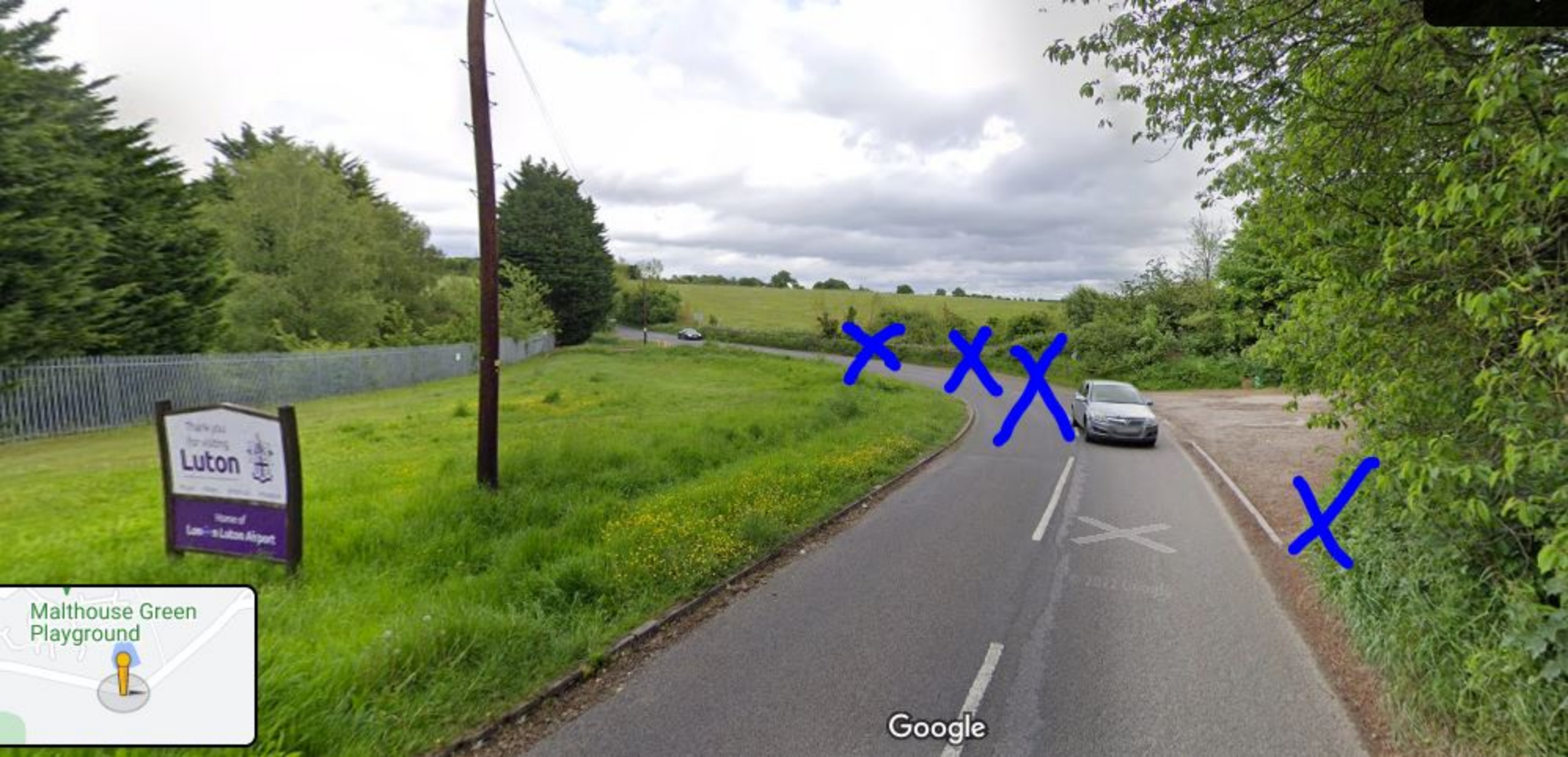
Chris Haden

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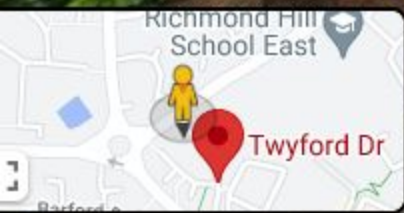
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February 2023

London Luton Airport Expansion

Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: TR020001

Volume 5 Environmental Statement and Related Documents
5.05 Appendix 1.2 Scoping Report (Volume 2 - Figures)



February 2023

London Luton Airport Expansion

Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: TR020001

Volume 5 Environmental Statement and Related Documents
5.05 Appendix 1.2 Scoping Report (Volume 2 - Figures)



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