

Unique Reference: 20038785

Friends of Wigmore Park wish to comment on fly parking, raised as a subject in Specific Hearing 7 (ISH7) held on 28th November 2023, and Luton Borough Council's view together with Luton Rising directors' view that the residents affected by the Council-owned airport should pay for their own parking schemes rather than the Council-owned Luton Rising or London Luton Airport Operations Ltd.

This has been put to a vote three times and three times it has been defeated in a political vote, as votes for and against were on party lines. The last vote took place on 26th September 2023.

<https://democracy.luton.gov.uk/cm5public/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=wqYhYq6Ms6ukNh6t1tGJyIHeUg6L5d%2bIHKWGx4zBEpyfj%2fUVc%2b5bsQ%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWctPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSffXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtY%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NhDURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d>

Minutes

26th September 2023 at 6.00 pm

92 Notice of Motion (Ref 11.3)

(a) It was proposed by Councillor Franks, seconded by Councillor Steve Stephens, but following a recorded vote in accordance with Standing Order 21.2 was lost:

Council:

- *Acknowledges that residents of Vauxhall, Round Green, Wigmore, Stopsley, South and Central Wards suffer from inconsiderate parking by people employed at or near the airport and by passengers unwilling to pay car park charges.*
- *Notes that the Council's highways officers have carried out extensive consultation with residents of some of these areas on possible measures to reduce the damage to their quality of life due to this airport parking problem.*
- *Accepts that this problem is entirely due to airport operations and would not exist if London Luton Airport was not there.*
- *Considers that, since the parking problem is entirely caused by London Luton Airport, its customers and related employees, the airport should bear the whole and complete cost of any necessary measures introduced by the Council to reduce the damage to the quality of life of residents of the affected areas.*
- *Requests the Chief Executive and other relevant Council officers to commence discussions with London Luton Airport Limited & London Luton Airport Operations Limited to secure their agreement to pay, in full, the costs of introducing and operating any parking regulation schemes designed to deal with the problem including costs which would otherwise be borne by the residents.*

For the Motion: Councillors Ahmed, Baker, Franks, Fry, Gallagher, Keens, Marshall, Moore, Petts, Skepelhorn, Stephens, Underwood and Wynn (13)

Against the Motion: Councillors Abbas, Ajisola, Umme Ali, Ambia, Fatima Begum, Yaron Begum, Burnett, Chowdhury, Farooq, Javed Hussain, Mahmood Hussain, Samia Hussain, Lovell, Mahmood, Rehana Malik, Naser, Raja, Roche, Saleem, Shaw, Simmons, Steer, Dave Taylor (23)

Abstain from the Motion: Councillor Aslam Khan (1)

Absent from the Motion: Councillors Amjid Ali, Bridgen, Hanif, Javeria Hussain, Isles, Alia Khan, Khtija Malik, Mead, Miller, Nicholls, James Taylor (11)

[Note: Councillors Hanif, Javeria Hussain, Isles, Miller, Nicholls and James Taylor declared a prejudicial interest in the above item (11.3) due to being Directors of Luton Rising and left the room during consideration of the item.]

Luton Airport is seen by many residents as a bad neighbour airport. So far, one scheme is up and running, but the Council has forced residents to fund a parking permit scheme themselves that is seen by many as a cash cow for the Council. Before these first parking restrictions were introduced, a vote was held at full council that either the airport owner or the airport operator should fund the scheme. The directors of Luton Rising, the company that owns the airport on behalf of the council, and who are also councillors for the ruling group, refused to declare an interest and voted against the motion to make sure it was defeated.

<https://democracy.luton.gov.uk/cm5public/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=D61kATnXHhFsei7Y%2f5v0SOj6VDS92qpnT%2bl%2f%2f6Glqw6TTNaYSZmotQ%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNlh225F5QMaQWctPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NhdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d>

This was later condemned by the Local Government Ombudsman in a report regarding a conflict of interest.

While the airport owner and airport operator, with the full support of Luton Borough Council, refuses to commit any funding to help local communities tackle street parking caused by their airport, Stansted has just ring fenced substantial funds for parking schemes. We quote from a newspaper report that we hope the Inspectors will allow to be submitted as evidence.

<https://www.bishopsstortfordindependent.co.uk/news/stansted-airport-ringfences-200k-to-tackle-fly-parking-nuis-9340890/>

“The airport’s head of corporate affairs, Joe Chapman, updated members of Stansted Parish Council at their meeting last Wednesday (Nov 15) – and urged them and other councils to apply for money to help tackle the problem.

He revealed the airport had ring-fenced £200,000 to alleviate the nuisance of air passengers parking in streets in towns and villages around the airport to avoid paying parking fees when they fly abroad.

Mr Chapman said: “We have transport forums and a sub-group which specifically deal with issues of fly-parking and have made progress with how we tackle this issue, with a significant pot of money ring-fenced to deal with local traffic, but it is the prerogative of local communities and councils to act. We have the money to invest.”

He assured councillors that it was working closely with other organisations, including Essex Trading Standards and Uttlesford District Council, to stop “meet and greets” and discourage taxis from picking up passengers from the streets and taking them to the airport”

We feel the contrast with Luton could not be greater with the principal difference being that the Council in Luton owns the airport and has made a political decision rather than representing residents’ interests, while the airport operator, unlike Stansted, has no interest in the plight of local communities regarding fly parking.

This following document shows a proposed extension to the existing residential parking restrictions. The applicant still hasn’t stated if they are committed to funding it and if they were would Luton Borough Council once again vote against it, so in effect would block it.

[**APP-200** \[TR020001-000820-7.02\] Transport Assessment Appendices - Part 1 of 3 \(Appendices A-E\)](#)

Potential Area of Residential Parking Restrictions drawing number LLADCO-3C-ARP-SFA-SWI-DR-CE-0003