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**To:** [Luton Airport](#)  
**Subject:** Luton Airport Expansion - Interested Party Comments (20039458)  
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I have lived in the village of Wheathampstead for the last 38 years. For the first years Luton Airport was not a problem because it was a small regional airport with relatively few flights. That rapidly changed in the last few years and the noise and traffic from the airport has become unbearable as it has expanded rapidly in size, seemingly without any control.

Since Luton Borough Council (through its offshoot company Luton Rising) became the owner they have treated the airport as a major income stream and have driven the airport to expand exponentially without taking any account of the detrimental affects the expansion was having on the residents of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and other counties

The location of the airport is a major issue as it is positioned on the top of a hill so it has a much larger noise footprint than other airports built on a level of the surrounding ground. Airport noise is also much worse for the residents of Wheathampstead as the village sits at the foot of the river Lea valley and sound is channelled directly down the valley from the airport.

Luton Airport being located on the top of a hill is in the wrong position for a major airport. The noise travels further affecting more local residents and also the airport suffers badly from inclement weather. If the expansion plans are approved these problems will greatly increase and local residents will be impacted even more

From before 6.00 in the morning until after midnight Wheathampstead suffers from constant noise from the planes and the airport. There is also noise throughout the night from late arrival planes, private jets and extremely noisy transport planes.

Living near to Luton Airport is becoming worse and worse as the years go by. Complaining to the airport has no affect as they completely ignore complaints and they don't even bother to reply.

In Wheathampstead we hear the tremendous roar when the planes take off and as they pass low over the village. We get planes flying low overhead when the airport is operating in both operating modes (Easterly and Westerly operations) because most of the planes on take off take a sharp curve to the south that takes them directly over or very close to Wheathampstead. The planes are meant to operate within an NPR (Noise Preferential Routes) but many of the planes ignore it and fly over the local towns and villages, including Wheathampstead. I have complained to the airport about this problem many times but absolutely nothing has been done and they don't bother to reply to any complaints.

Luton Airport has a major problem with Go-arounds (that is where a plane misses the runway and has to try again) The planes are directed by air traffic control to fly extremely low in a circular flight path over local villages (including Wheathampstead). This causes huge upset to local villagers with large planes roaring directly over the rooftops of their houses. This happens very frequently, as much as three or four times a day during busy periods or inclement weather. The airport has refused to do anything to sort out the

problem, despite getting hundreds of complaints from residents.

You are probably aware that there is a major conflict of interest between Luton Borough Council (the owners of the airport) and the airport as they were responsible for making the planning decisions on the airport expansion (except this current DCO and the 19 million application which was called in by the Secretary of State and an appeal was held). On each of the previous applications despite receiving hundreds of objections from local residents the Luton Councillors decided to brush all of them aside and to go ahead and approve the applications. The councillors on the Luton Planning Committee considered solely the advantages and income the airport would bring in for the residents of Luton. They failed to take any account of the impact of the planes that fly in and out of the airport on Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. These residents have to suffer all the ill effects from the airport and get nothing in return except constant noise, traffic, air pollution and aggravation.

The airport breached its noise control planning limits in 2017, 2018 and 2019 even though it had signed a legal Section 106 Agreement with Luton Council which obliged it to conduct the operation of the airport in accordance with the noise control conditions. Because of the conflicted position of the Council they did not take enforcement action and went ahead and allowed the airport to expand without any redress. This clearly makes the point that the airport/owner takes no notice of legal agreements. They are extremely likely to do the same again if the expansion plans are approved as binding legal agreements clearly mean nothing to them.

As soon as the Council gave themselves planning permission they quickly incentivised the airport operator to expand the airport as quickly as possible, whereas the planning agreement stated they were meant to be expanding gradually over a number of years when quieter planes became available. Yet another instance where the owner of the airport thinks nothing of breaking a legally binding agreement.

Some of the operators have brought in modern planes and these were meant to be quieter, but it has not proved to be the case at Luton. The operators chose to use new planes that are larger and carry more passengers than the previous generation. This has resulted in no noise reduction whatsoever. In addition the new planes make a huge roar on takeoff because they are larger and carry more payload. The location of the airport on a hill is yet again an issue as the sound travels so much further.

The applicant has spent millions of pounds on the expansion plans and they employed highly paid consultants to prepare all the documentation, most of which are completely unintelligible to non-specialists like myself. As an interested party and local resident I have been unable to comment on the complicated technical reports and documents. No effort or attempt was made by the applicant to produce easily understood versions of the documents. As a local resident I have been unable to participate in the application process which I consider is completely unfair and the whole process has been swayed completely in favour of the applicant.

Over the last few years local residents have been subjected to consultation after consultation on the seemingly never ending airport expansion schemes. Each time local residents including myself have been diligent and have sent in objections, but every time they have been ignored and the proposals were allowed to go ahead. It is absolutely sickening that Luton Airport has been allowed to expand at such a rapid and uncontrolled pace without any thought about the huge detrimental impact they are having on local residents.

The airports grant scheme 'Greener Future Fund' has been limited to within 5 miles of the airport. This effectively limits the scheme to Luton Borough. The counties that are located adjacent to the airport have been deliberately excluded from the grant scheme and yet they are the ones that suffer worst from the noise and pollution from the airport. This is another instance of the applicant selfishly looking after the interests of the residents of Luton and excluding anyone else.

The current proposals to virtually double the number of passengers fills me with horror. The impact of the airport is terrible at the moment and the very thought of it expanding to virtually double the size is unbearable to me.

When you are considering this application please can you also take into account the detrimental affect it will have on local communities. Local residents have already had to put up with the huge impact of the over rapid expansion of the airport and this application, if it is allowed to go ahead will have a catastrophic impact on local communities. Please do not allow this application to go ahead.

Thank you

Nigel Oxley



**Interested Party number 20039458**