

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 November 2018 17:46
To: Manston Airport
Subject: DCO - Manston Airport,Kent.

The Planning Inspectorate
Bristol BS1 6PN

Dear Sirs

I have long regarded the re-opening of Manston Airport as vital to the interests - not only to the people of North Kent but to the wider travelling public . One has only to look at its geographical position to see that it would be totally ridiculous to consider ploughing up what is one of the longest runways in the UK., at a time when both Gatwick and Heathrow are clamouring for an extra runway to cater for predicted growth in air travel over the next 20 years .Whichever of these two unpalatable options are favoured by Government neither scheme will be popular as they both incur enormous cost and have a tremendous adverse impact in enviromental terms - not only in terms of increased noise and pollution but on a road network which is barely able to cope with the existing level of use.

As I find now that I am only repeating my arguments for the re-opening of Manston I will attach herewith my submission to the Thanet District Council which I submitted some months ago. I hope you will find that the many reasons provided will enable you to find that on balance it is eminently sensible to retain Manston Airport as an Airport with a long term future and not allow private development for housing when there are hundreds of acres of suitable building land all around Thanet if and when housing demand needs to be satisfied.

I hope you will feel able to support Manston Airport and the residents of North Kent - we really need it !.

Yours sincerely
P J Godfrey (mr)

To:consult.thanet.gov.uk@aol.com,
Subject:Local Plan - Re development of Manston Airport

To whom it may concern :

I wish to register my objection to this proposal which suggests that an independent housing facility with ancilliary services should be built on this site when Central Government has already accepted the undeniable fact that Air travel is going to increase rapidly over the next 20 years. Despite the efforts of both of our local MPs to bring civil aviation back to Manston the District Council has failed miserably to deliver a plan in support which would provide the much needed economic activity to this community.

It seems absolutely ludicrous to contemplate an additional runway at either Gatwick or Heathrow when the road networks to both are already at virtual grid-lock and the long suffering residents unfortunate enough to be on their flight paths are already exposed to continual noise and pollution - not to mention the huge cost and upheaval caused by these new building works and the unstoppable annual growth in the levels of road traffic.

To justify the District Councils decision we are expected to rely on a poorly researched appraisal by independent aviation experts who see no opportunity for profitable aviation use of the site until 2031. This report has about the same distinction as the report commissioned some 20 years earlier which lacked any in depth analysis, failed to provide the extent of, and results of, the surveys undertaken and concluded without any meaningful argument or support that there was no future for the Airport - a decision thought by many to have been pre-determined.

There are many sound reasons for re-establishing Manston Airport :

There is nothing - really nothing - in this area with the same potential for employment. Thanet needs Jobs . It is already considered a deprived area with high unemployment, a large immigrant population, high percentage of retired people and apart from tourism has no major industry . Re-opening Manston would breathe new life into the area benefitting not only those directly involved in servicing the flights and passengers but all the local firms that would mushroom from regular activity.

Its has a huge runway - capable of handling all types of aircraft.

We have high speed train links from London St.Pancras & via Ashford. A direct line into Manston would be possible.

There is ample parking.

The runway approach from the East comes over open farmland so noise and pollution levels are not a problem.

The skies over this part of Kent are relatively clear and provide on take off & landing an easy approach.

We are rarely troubled by fog - which frequently affects Gatwick .

We now have motorways (and at least a dual carriage way) from London into the airport approach.

With regular Airport activity there is far less chance of QEQM Hospital being down-graded - we cant afford to lose

the general Hospital status that it took us so long to achieve !!.

Airport expansion will automatically promote construction work providing more jobs.

In my opinion ripping up the airfield and building another 2500 plus houses makes absolutely no sense. There is plenty of vacant land all round Thanet !!. Indeed having built them what are all the occupants of these new homes going to do ???. There are few jobs locally. When new developments take place in Thanet the houses are snapped up by London Boroughs, as cheaper housing here enables them to ease their housing shortage and reduce benefit bills . But what are these new arrivals supposed to do ???.

Increasingly we are told there is a housing shortage, the schools are full and the NHS is on the point of collapse. So at last the chickens have come home to roost !!. Thatchers sale of social housing stock and refusal to allow any replacement by starving funding to local authorities coupled with unbridled and irresponsible levels of immigration have brought us to this sorry state of affairs. And all of this can be laid at the feet of successive governments - political hues may change but it is the same inept blinkered individuals who are now deciding about building extra runways for London !!.

In fairness I do not expect our local Council to possess the expertise to make this important decision. I do however expect them to accept that when confronted with a decision of this magnitude they have done everything possible to maintain a local facility that is of immeasurable importance for the future prosperity of generations to come. It may be that Riveroak will be succesful. In the meantime I would like to know what International carriers have been approached, what joint ventures have been explored, have the carriers in cash rich countries been contacted and what other opportunities have also been exhausted in the search for our future. Time to think outside the box, I am retired now but I have thirty years experience of financing International Trade and would be pleased to offer my services without payment.

We need the Airport - we really do.

Thank you for considering my views.

P J Godfrey (Mr)

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.

For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>
