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Subject: Manston Airport Your reference: 20011913  
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Your reference: 20011913 Manston Airport.

In Support of Manston.

A little history.

Historically from the 1950s to 70s much of the local employment for school leavers was either through one of many factories, engineering and printing, sign making or through the Kent Coalfield. Schools were geared up to offer skills in wood and metal work, day release engineering and electrical and mechanical training. Sadly with the decline and closure of the factories and the closure of the Kent coalfield opportunities and training for our young workforce dried up. Today in my view there is little to train for locally due to the relocation away from Thanet of business and the removal of technical skills from the education syllabus in both local schools and college.

Also in the lack of skills mix are the decline in both nurses and doctors in this area and the failure to attract people with these skills to this area. Fortunately the CCG's have recognised this and have setup 2 and 4 year nursing courses at the local Universities to educate for our local health system. Following this a training course starts in 2020 for doctors to train in Kent. This will not only benefit in the long term by feeding into the healthcare system but will also enable training places in our local hospitals and GP surgeries a bonus for the residents of East Kent.

Manston offers us the opportunity of not only bringing business to our area but will provide much needed employment and education opportunities delivering skill sets to our young people and giving them the opportunity to grow and thrive with the business. A little vision like the healthcare providers is what is required. At present we are looking at the site becoming a mass housing development which will bring nothing to the area. Short term employment for mostly fluid group of building workers followed by an influx of people that Thanet will have problems supporting and burdening an already struggling infrastructure.

A couple of years ago our local council threw away the opportunity of a CPO due to a flawed report by Avia Solutions which looked at a number of scenarios for Manston yet failed to address or consider the model of operation put forward by RSP for a freight terminal.

I have read almost every page of RSP's proposals and even as a past technical author much of this was above my understanding however there is so much which makes sense and has failed to be viewed by local objection groups. There are NO proposals for a 24/7 airport and I feel this is quite clear in the proposal and also recognising that sometimes an operational difficulty may cause a late landing that a fee is imposed upon the incumbent air firm. This money is to be paid into a local fund to be administered by local people and not the council for local benefit. I cannot see how this is detrimental to local people.

I believe that whatever happens with Brexit we will need more facilities for airfreight and to use an airfield that is mostly not affected by poor weather has to be an asset. I think that the  
Projections by RSP are realistic and not only direct employment but indirect employment will benefit immeasurably. With the construction of the new Thames Crossing into Essex which will benefit haulage from the airfield and who could rule out bringing the railway in at a later date due to its proximity.  
The level of investment and modernisation that RSP want to bring to Manston is an opportunity to make the airfield a beacon to the world. As aviation evolves quatter aircraft are being developed and who is to say how long it will be before we have all electric aviation. I understand peoples concern over noise but much is scaremongering. I live right next to the flightpath and have never been disturbed by aircraft landing and actually miss going to the ship to look up and see a 747 overhead. I feel we need to look long term and at the changes within aviation as to how it would affect a community and not in the short term. Interestingly I have no memories of mass complaints about aviation in the past and most complainants appear to come from people who knew there was an airport here.

Also not forgetting the relief the opening of Manston could provide the London airports both in cargo and passenger handling being only an hour from London by fast train. Also the benefits as a diversionary airfield in an emergency.

Finally many objectors are stating that Manston has failed on a number of occasions to succeed as an airfield. I would just say that you can sow many seeds and many will not germinate and grow if the conditions are not right. However with the correct soil, nutrients and water it can germinate and looked after it can thrive. RSP have the seed and I believe many of the nutrients and provided with the rest of the formula have something which will ultimately benefit most in Thanet and the larger area of Kent and beyond.

Terence Huckstep.