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**Subject:** Support for Manston Airport  
**Date:** 14 February 2019 12:48:50

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the RSP application to return Manston Airport to operational status.

I have lived in Thanet since 2001, and I supported families for many years in some of the most deprived wards in the country. Unemployment is high and I feel both the direct and indirect employment opportunities the reopening of the the airport would have would be such a positive impact on the district.

Talking to friends, neighbours and colleagues I truly feel that the vast majority of residents in Thanet back the re-opening of the airport. I do however feel for those people who may have bought homes in the flight path in more recent years, having been led to believe the airport may not be re-opened. I also have many friends who live on the flight path and miss the planes flying over.

Both my children attend a school in the flight path and they say that planes didn't distract their lessons, and they infact enjoyed watching them fly over.

I flew out of Manston on a few occasions, as did many friends, and I am aware that KLM were happy to run the journey between Manston and Amsterdam at a loss, but that in fact the journey was beginning to turn a profit. This was during the time the previous/ current owners who had promised to keep the airport open for a set time closed it suddenly. I can't help but wonder about coincidence - a "failing" airport can't be seen to turn a profit! Only my thought though!

On a more personal level, my son has had some flying lessons but driving to Lydd adds a lot of costs and time. This also confused me as I was told that one of the reasons the airport wasn't viable was because of the road links?! Having driven to Lydd there is no comparison. There is motorway and then dual carriageway all the way to Manston. Also, I believe plans have been approved for a station at Cliffsend, by the airport, that would be on the high speed route, so excellent road and rail links to London.

I therefore see Manston airport as a national asset. Its re-opening would see freight coming back through once again which would take pressure

If the London airports and support our local economy. With some passenger flights operating too, this again would improve travel options in Thanet and the neighbouring districts and bring much needed tourism into the district throughout the year.

Manston used to be used as a training airport for pilots, this too may be possible as well as its use as a diversion/ emergency runway as required.

I therefore support the return to operational status to create both direct and indirect employment and return to use what is without doubt one of the most potentially underused national assets.

Sarah Craven  
Thanet Resident.

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