

From: [REDACTED]
To: manstonairport@pins.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Manston as an airport
Date: 15 February 2019 18:25:21

To whom it may concern,

Yesterday on the news it was reported that the manufacturing of the Airbus 380 is to cease. The reason given for this was that travellers now want to commence their journeys at their local airport in a smaller plane.

The way we travel has changed even since the closure of the airport several years ago. We now are likely to book a flight on a budget airline, our accommodation via a website such as air b n b and even our transfers independently. Often people tend to do short breaks rather than one long holiday, taking those short breaks in either in the UK or Mainland Europe.

In my opinion it is very short sighted to not continue to use Manston as an airport. Southend airport is a local one in a similar position to Manston, quite a way from Central London and on the coast. Yet it is going from strength to strength, I will be travelling from there myself next week.

The roads to Manston airport would of course need improving from the single carriageways that they are currently.

Aside from this the discovery that there is a plan to build thousands of houses on this land worries me, Thanet does not have the infrastructure to support a larger population than we have already. Our roads are often busy, there are few jobs that pay higher than the living wage and our schools have very few places.

I worry that we cannot support a growing population with our water resources and that the building of so many homes may increase the likelihood of flooding in that area.

If Manston is supported as an airport by the Government, I feel that there will be an opportunity for growth for it in both passenger and air travel. Kent Tourism will need to promote Thanet as a destination for short trips to tempt people to stay local, as well as other areas of Kent. London has four airports for people to travel to, Thanet and Kent have much more to offer travellers to our beautiful area.

One more point, there is scope to improve the MOD facilities at DFTDC Manston and offer fire training with accommodation to other European Fire Fighters. Currently a small number of the Dutch Air Force and Army train at DFTDC using the simulator there. Slovakian Defence Firefighters were offered the opportunity to do the same as they do not have the facilities to train to that standard in their own country, and they come and learn vital elements of aircraft fire fighting with the highly skilled instructors at Manston. I believe that this is as part of our relations with them under NATO. Millions has been spent on the bidding process for the facilities and training to be taken over by a contractor and moved to another part of the country. This process has not gone well, it should be shelved, money spent on

Improving the site and accommodation. Then our forces and other European ones can be trained in Fire Safety as well as any other training that can be held in improved facilities there. Working alongside the airport both sites could build a working relationship and make Manston a state of the art training centre for the MOD.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yours faithfully,

Karen Berry

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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