

Margarita Moscoso, Interested Party Reference 20012483

Written Response to PINS

I submit my objection to the proposed DCO for a cargo hub at Manston Airport.

Whilst feeling extreme disgruntlement at what I, as a resident of Ramsgate, am being requested to do to object to the DCO submitted by RSP I am nevertheless forced to engage with the process in order to attempt to protect my environment and the quality of life I can look forward to.

Please note that as you informed that you do not want repetition of what I stood and addressed in person at your open meetings, and furthermore you insist on evidence for any assertions made, I am somewhat limited in what I will be saying here.

I write as a resident of Ramsgate's Eastcliff, an area which, from past experience, is directly under the proposed flight path of planes coming in to land at the now defunct Manston Airport.

When Manston Airport was last operational it had very little air traffic, but even so what there was flew in over my house. In particular, the training sessions carried out on Sundays for pilots practising take off and landings have left me in no doubt as to what it would be like to live under the flight path of a new, operational Manston Airport developed as a cargo hub.

I leave it to other objectors to the proposed DCO to provide evidence re noise, pollution, lack of credible business plan, misleading public consultations by RSP etc. etc. and instead direct you to the statement from Historic England as to its plans for Ramsgate.

 / 28/01/19

“The Heritage Action Zone in Ramsgate will look to achieve economic growth by using the historic environment as a catalyst.

The aim is for the Heritage Action Zone to grow Ramsgate into a prosperous maritime town where outstanding heritage and architecture coupled with new investment and development strengthens the economy for the benefit of the local community.”

I question whether the many listed (and unlisted) historic buildings in Ramsgate would survive unscathed the attack from the noise, vibration and air pollution which would result from a cargo hub at Manston. The majority of Ramsgate has been a conservation zone for some time and together with, in the main, Grade II listings, double or triple glazing is not an option.

Apart from small, creative based businesses the main income for the area comes from tourism. Lately the Thanet coast has become a very popular place to visit for tourists both from the UK and outside. I don't think it is scaremongering to anticipate the attraction to stall with a cargo hub up the road affecting our skies and roads.

Thanet's tourism economy now worth £319m as visitor numbers rise to 4.2 million in 2017

Visits to Thanet increased by 8.6% in 2017 with the district welcoming a record 4.2 million visitors, according to research. The value of Thanet's visitor economy grew by 9.2% in 2017 and is now worth over £319 million.

Independent research commissioned by Visit Kent showed that the number of day trips to the Thanet district leapt by 9.9% in 2017, meanwhile the total number of nights stayed in the district increased by 4.9%.

The total number of jobs supported by tourism rose by 8.7% to 7,950, with the industry accounting for an impressive 19% of total employment across Thanet.

Councillor Ash Ashbee, Cabinet Member for Coastal Development at Thanet District Council said: "The results clearly show that tourism in Thanet is going from strength to strength. "The number of day trips to the area is up by 10% which is a solid increase but in the context of the national figure of 0.8% it really is brilliant news."

"We have seen the popularity of Thanet steadily increase in recent years and its reputation as a go-to destination is now firmly established. We are so delighted that the growth we experienced previously has continued. We recognise the economic benefits that a thriving tourism offer brings to the local economy, creating jobs and driving spend in the local area.

"Our ambition is to continue to attract new and returning visitors to this beautiful destination - there are always reasons to visit Thanet. In 2019, Margate Caves is due to reopen in spring and from late September, the Turner Contemporary is hosting the Turner Prize."

The tourism picture was rosy across the county in 2017, despite the challenges presented by ongoing Brexit negotiations. Kent welcomed

65 million visitors in 2017, and the visitor economy's value leapt by 7% to £3.8 billion. Kent welcomed a record 64,970,000 visitors throughout 2017 with the county's tourism industry accounting for 76,828 jobs. Across the county, visitor numbers rose compared to the previous year with the highest volume of day trips, value of tourism and tourism related jobs recorded.

Kent also remains the third most visited destination outside of London for foreign visitors.

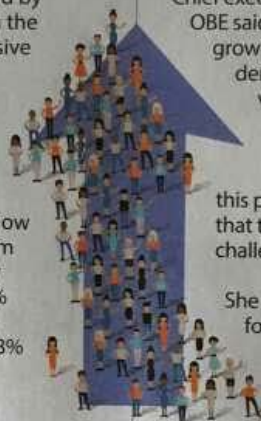
Chief executive of Visit Kent, Deirdre Wells OBE said: "Tourism is the UK's fastest growing service sector and these figures demonstrate the contribution which our vital industry makes to the economy of Kent. The collective efforts of tourism businesses across the county have paid dividends and this partnership will be critical in ensuring that this growth continues during a challenging year ahead."

She added: "Our challenge going forward will be to turn more of our day visits into overnight stays and short breaks, bringing even further growth to the county."

Leader of Kent County Council, Paul Carter, said: "The results from the 2017 survey commissioned by Visit Kent clearly show that the visitor economy is increasingly important to the county's future prosperity".

For the full report go to www.visitthanetbusiness.co.uk or the visitor website www.visitthanet.co.uk For more information about Kent, please visit www.visitkent.co.uk.

*(Day trip figures for England are taken from the results of the 2017 GB Day Visits Survey and figures for the Isle of Thanet are based on a combination of results from the GB Day visits survey, admissions data from the visits to visitor attractions survey, the ALVA survey and visitor numbers from the Visit Kent Business Barometer. Therefore, as sample sizes and surveys differ, direct like for like comparisons cannot be made.)



Currently there is much talk and concern regarding the possible impact that using the area of the old Manston Airport as a temporary lorry park would have on the surrounding roads and air quality. There are only two roads in and out of Thanet, one via Dover leading to the M20 and the other via the A299 to the M2. The road to Dover is limited in size and manoeuvrability due to tight, small roundabouts at certain locations so we are down to one road where size of lorries would not be an issue. At busy times these roads risk coming to a standstill due to the quantity of traffic, thus the concern about using the old airport to park lorries to alleviate 'operation stack' after Brexit. The same concerns would apply in the case of lorries' onward movement of any cargo coming into Manston.

Margarita Moscoso
Resident of Ramsgate