

Dear Sirs, many thanks for giving us, the local residents, a chance to be heard and our views expressed in a way that proves beneficial for the application.

Being a local 20 year old who grew up - and currently lives within site of the airfield and extended centreline of Manston's runway 10, as well as being crew for a major airline, I must say unequivocally that this is a serious national asset that we, the local region and the country as a whole, can not afford to lose. Manston has been there for over 100 years, it hasn't let us down, even through two world wars, and it won't do so now.

At the time of this application, London Heathrow Airport (LHR) and London Gatwick Airport (LGW) are literally bursting out the seams. They are both operating at close to 100%

capacity, which has led to a drastic National situation where we have no more effective airport or airspace capacity over the South East and particularly, London. This prevents them from being expanded immediately, and as we have seen, is taking a fairly long time to be decided - this is where Manston comes in.

Manston is unique - it sits in a location close to London and close to continental Europe, yet sits outside of the London TMA airspace boundaries. This means that Manston will have the necessary airspace to operate effectively and efficiently - life it has done during its whole life - and will be a lifesaver to the South East and its airport capacity issue.

Manston's runway is close to 10,000ft in length, meaning it can take any aircraft - Concorde, the

Boeing 747-400, the Boeing 747-8F freighter, the MD-11, Boeing C-17 military cargo aircraft, the world's largest passenger jet Airbus A380 superjumbo, as well as the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, to name a few! This isn't containing multiple visits by Air Force Jets from all over the world, as well as helicopters and Cessna 152s partaking in flight training. Most airliners are reformed, very quiet and contribute to very little noise.

Thanet is a deprived area.

Unemployment is at a high, many young people are leaving school without qualifications, and there aren't many opportunities to form full, well paid, mortgage enabling careers.

A reopened, redeveloped Manston Airport will present many career opportunities, as well as provide training and

apprenticeships that lead to professional, high level qualifications.

The 'alternative plans' for the site will lead to even higher unemployment, will lead to local schools, hospitals, police and more becoming overwhelmed. What Thanet needs is an investment in something big - and this is it.

The plans to integrate a Manston Airport Training facility with local schools and business, is an exciting possibility. It will give the youth something to work towards, to gain a great qualification and be part of something greater - and that's the spirit of aviation.

Another serious event we are witnessing is a serious lack of pilots. Boeing have predicted that there is a back log of at least 250,000 pilots. As aviation is one

of the biggest sectors in the economy, as well as the fastest growing, the need for pilots is through the roof. Most pilots start of learning to fly at home, at a local Airfield - and Manston had just that. It is still currently training helicopter pilots. TG Aviation was a great flying club, family oriented and run, but ripped away when the Airfield closed. We need to have Manston, due to it's large runway, relatively empty airspace and it's great location. It can do it's part in providing pilots of the future.

In summary, Manston is crucial to the development of the local region of Thanet and Kent, the South East, and is nationally significant in the aspect of airport capacity.

