

Mr S Fleming

Tel: [REDACTED]

Ref: PINS Manston Airport DCO. Ref TR020002

14/02/2019

Dear Sir/Madam

I'm writing in regard to the Development Consent Order for an operational Airport at Manston, Ramsgate, Kent.

I fully support the re-opening of Manston Airport. Please find below my reasons, personal experiences and opinion.

From 1972 to 2003 I resided directly under the flight path on the nearby Nethercourt Estate. During this time the RAF were resident. I lived through the noise of loud RAF fighters and bombers, these also included other military aircraft from other nations utilising the long and wide runway. I went to school at Chilton Primary which was also in close proximity to the flight path. I can categorically say that noise from loud fighters and civilian aircraft did not impact on my education and to this date, at age of 50, has not affected my health. Modern Aircraft are quieter and cleaner. I can also speak for my family and friends, some of whom still reside in and around the Nethercourt estate and have done so for many years.

As a self employed landscape gardener, I have struggled to make a living which could be attributed to the low average wage of persons residing in Thanet. Thanet has one of the highest rates of unemployment in the UK and high rate of deprivation. .

Local tourism employment is quite often on zero hour contracts and minimum wage. Having resided in Thanet for nearly 50 years, I can say that tourism in Thanet is seasonal and often attracts very low wages. The tourism season only spans 4-5 months.

The opportunities represented by RSP will boost average wages, employment figures and the local economy. Gatwick Airport in 2016 had an economic footprint of 85,000 jobs. If Manston were to become operational and achieve 25% of this, it would be a major employer for Kent, the South East and the United Kingdom. Average wages would increase due to specialist roles, positively impacting on property prices locally and indirectly could affect my business with more customers with increased disposable income.

Having a young family, I am happy to see RSP's proposals for a training facility linked to local educational centres. I have previously had concerns for my younger relatives as employment opportunities in Thanet and surrounding areas is severely restricted. RSP's proposals will provide opportunity for high quality and highly skilled jobs in aviation related businesses.

Living near Manston Airport I have witnessed its demise and firmly believe this was due to lack of investment in infrastructure. In my opinion the control tower was a temporary structure that was used for approximately 15 years. Larger parking stands were not provided for more aircraft, the terminal building was a pre-fabricated structure, and up until recently being installed in its last years of operation, there was no long range radar.

General Comment.

I wish to see Manston Airport reopened as a freight hub with some commercial passenger flights. I believe that RSP's proposals will greatly benefit East Kent and the wider area and solve the issue of high rates of unemployment in Thanet and surrounding areas. I fully support RSP and their project and hope that you

will give the good people of Thanet the opportunity to live more prosperous lives.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Fleming.