

Submission to Inspectorate...

Cllr Rev. Stuart Piper... 1 St James Avenue, Ramsgate, CT12 6DG.

Sirs.

Thank you again for granting me the opportunity to speak to the Oddfellows club on 18th March.

During my presentation in support of the re-opening of Manston Airport, I mentioned three articles from Air Cargo News, an industry related publication.

1. Cathay Pacific returns to profit
2. Alibaba increases its stake in the Chinese sector.
3. A boom in trade growth for DHL

I was asked to forward the links to yourselves.

<https://www.aircargonews.net/airlines/strong-cargo-performance-as-cathay-pacific-returns-to-profit/>

<https://www.aircargonews.net/airlines/freighter-operator/alibaba-increases-investment-in-chinas-express-sector/>

<https://www.aircargonews.net/freight-forwarder/e-commerce-boom-and-trade-growth-fuel-dp-dhl-group-revenues-in-2018/>

SPEECH ON MARCH 18th

Subject: Manston Airport. DCO

Chairman and Panel Members...

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in support of the DCO application for Manston Airport.

I am a serving Councillor on Thanet District Council and also Ramsgate Town Council.

I have lived under the flight path for nearly 20 years.

This facility is, in my view, going to waste and it could be discarded for no good reason.

It is well documented that the area covered by the airport is completely unsuited to a large housing conurbation.

A functioning airport offers a chance for real jobs and investment and economic benefit to Thanet as well as considerable benefits at a national and international level.

Manston Airport would offer ancillary jobs and educational training and development through engagement with local universities not only in terms of study, training and practice but also a very real opportunity to build a quality tear down facility which would remove and refurbish many aircraft components.

I speak as a former Army helicopter technician who worked on helicopters and Fixed wing aircraft and I firmly believe that the education and training opportunities are a given as is the business potential for the local Chambers of Commerce who also see the value of as functioning airport

Delivery companies and suppliers would also benefit from increased activity and Tourism would undoubtedly receive a boost.

Nationally I believe it would be an opportunity to allow proper investment to provide a serious player in the aviation world.

You will, I'm sure, be aware of the many articles produced in international publications about the growth in the cargo sector of the aviation industry.

Air Cargo News, reports that Cathay Pacific have returned to profit. That doesn't just happen. IT REQUIRES VISION AND INVESTMENT.

There has been a boom in trade growth for DHL the freight distributor in Germany. Again business growth through VISION AND INVESTMENT.

AliBaba has significantly increased its investment in the Chinese Sector.

There is a pattern here.

It is.....VISION and INVESTMENT.

Australia has decided it needs a dedicated freight body for continued growth for their business sector.

These people cannot all be wrong.

The business is growing.

We can tap into that or ignore it but it is happening right in front of us.

THE UK NEEDS ADDITIONAL CAPACITY AND COMMITTED SERVICE PROVIDERS.

THE UK NEEDS VISION AND INVESTMENT.

This DCO application, in my view, demonstrates in spades that VISION AND INVESTMENT potential.

The Applicants need local Councils and local people to get fully behind the project.

In my view the protesters are simply not seeing the bigger picture for a bright future for Thanet and the UK as a whole.

The Government has dragged its heels over a £ Multi billion project involving, I suspect numerous DCO/CPO Inquiries and reviews around Gatwick and here we have private enterprise offering to help the local area and the country.

I believe that Manston Airport does fulfil the requirements of National Infrastructure Significance and I am one of many who sincerely hopes that this Panel will agree.

Thank you for this opportunity.....Cllr Rev. Stuart Piper