

Public representation and support

In 2018, as part of a “Relevant Representation” the MP for North Thanet wrote

“Representation

“I write as the elected Member of Parliament for North Thanet, the seat that I have represented since 1983.

At all elections at every level of Government since the announced closure of Manston Airport there has been a clear and overwhelming local mandate for the re-opening of Manston for aviation and related businesses.

I myself have campaigned on and supported this platform in the strong belief that Manston represents a unique piece of national infrastructure that is needed in the national interest now, will be needed in the future and that, if lost, cannot be recreated.

There is already, and post-Brexit will be an enhanced, need for runway capacity in the South East , in addition to Heathrow 3, to handle freight and passenger traffic. I have studied the RiverOak Strategic Partnership proposals in detail and I believe that they offer a unique opportunity to meet the current and future needs of a United Kingdom that is currently losing valuable business to mainland European airports.

While the prime need is national I am also satisfied that the Manston Airport proposal also offers very considerable potential for the creation of high-quality jobs and apprenticeships in an area of historically high unemployment. Alternative proposals for the use of this site would not only be more environmentally unacceptable but do not offer the same employment potential.

I confirm that I have not had, do not have and will not have any financial interest of any kind in the proposed development and I shall be pleased to make myself available for interview and cross-examination in person in support of the application.”

Received 05 September 2018

From Roger Gale MP

Link <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/manston-airport/?ipcsection=relreps&ipcsearch=gale&ipcpagesize=10&relrep=28886>

The important part of this representation was the thought that the majority of Thanet fully supported this application. The misuse of an election result in 2015 to support his view is typically political and the real reason for the Local election results (33 UKIP councillors took charge of the Council) was a protest at the incompetent nature of the preceding 2 administrations.

Taking an obvious political stance is what Members of Parliament seem to do on a regular basis.

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2019 saw a new set of elections where there was a clear divide between the parties with Labour and Greens totally opposed to the airport and Conservatives and Independents for the airport. The result was very telling with Tory 25 up 3, Labour 20 up 15, Independent 7 down 6, Green 3 up 3 and one new Indie.

In Ramsgate, which lies under the flightpath the result was even more disastrous for the airport support with TDC Ramsgate councillors of which there are 17 being now 11 Labour and 1 Green and 3 Independent and 2 Tory

Ward	Current	May-19	result	
Newington	Labour	Labour	No Change	Red
Newington	TIC	Labour	Labour gain from TIC	
Central Harbour	Labour	Labour	No Change	
Central Harbour	Tory	Labour	Labour gain from Tory	
Central Harbour	TIC	Green	Green Gain from TIC	Green
Nethercourt	UKIP	Labour	Labour gain from UKIP	Red
Nethercourt	UKIP	Labour	Labour gain from UKIP	
Montefiore	UKIP	Labour	Labour gain from UKIP	
Montefiore	Labour	Labour	No Change	
Cliffsend	Tory	Tory	No Change	Blue
Cliffsend	UKIP	Tory	Tory Gain from UKIP	Red
Eastcliff	UKIP	Labour	Labour gain from UKIP	
Eastcliff	UKIP	Labour	Labour gain from UKIP	
Eastcliff	UKIP	Labour	Labour gain from UKIP	
Northwood	TIC	TIC	No Change	Light Green
Northwood	TIC	TIC	No Change	
Northwood	TIC	TIC	No Change	

At the same time Ramsgate Town Council elections are held with 16 seats up for grabs with 12 of those seats becoming Labour.

It is clear now that 75% of Ramsgate residents voted for parties that do NOT want an airport damaging the Town of Ramsgate.