

From: [REDACTED]
To: manstonairport@pins.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: Re-opening Manston Airport
Date: 28 June 2019 14:31:59

Sir/Madam

I feel strongly about the possibility of re-opening Manston as a regional airport.

It beggars belief that the Government constantly report the lack of runway slots in the London area airports, and the need to spend billions of pounds creating additional runways for Gatwick and/or Heathrow, when there is a perfectly serviceable full size runway at Manston going to waste, which would require on a few millions spending on it to bring it up to the necessary condition.

The local infrastructure is sound and is fully capable of handling the additional traffic for a freight hub as a minimum.

The area of Thanet, where Manston is located, is currently one of the unemployment hotspots in the UK. Re-opening Manston would create much needed long-term employment in the short term, and as the airport grows in usage it would deliver ongoing employment demands to continue to ease the local problems.

I spent the first fifty years of my life living in close proximity to Gatwick airport, and witnessed the effect the expansion over the years of that airport had on the local community, in terms of employment and housing requirements. Local businesses grew with the airport to the extent that the areas surrounding Gatwick attracted people from all around the UK and Europe into a booming local economy with ready, and varied employment opportunities.

Whilst I would not expect Manston to have the potential to grow to such a grand scale, I believe the airport would have a positive and lasting impact on the local economy and employment.

In Thanet where unemployment is extremely high, the imposition of thousands of new housing stock will have little impact on the long term unemployment figures, and will have the adverse effect of introducing hundreds, if not thousands, into an, already, very weak employment area. The only benefit would be an increase in Council Tax payers to the Local Authority.

The majority of local people in this area have been pleading with their local politicians for years to put all their efforts into getting the airport back into use. This however, was the opposite to their desires, and countless politicians have lost their seats over their intransigence, as will many more who refuse to listen to their electorate. Such is the strength of local feeling.

I would implore you to consider ever option available to cause this airport to re-open to enable the current static local economy to begin to recover.

Thank you for your time.

Mr M Perry

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