

From: [REDACTED]
To: ManstonAirport@pins.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: TR020002
Date: 28 June 2019 19:15:16
Importance: High

Dear Sirs,

I write once more in support of RSP's ambitious and exciting plans for our airport at MANSTON. In compiling this email, I acknowledge the airport as important for the economic regeneration of Thanet consistent with the APF (Government Aviation Policy Framework) which recognises the aviation sector as a major contributor to the economy, facilitating trade and investment and making better use of existing runway capacity. (SP05 And EC4.)

I write to thank you too for the way you have helped us all to engage in the DCO process; our family, friends and colleagues have valued the numerous opportunities offered to express our views, to hear the views of others and witness the questioning and input of experts concerned with the project. There have been occasions when feelings evidently ran high, and the audience benefited from the intervention and guidance of the inspectorate. I have to say that I have attended other meetings related to saving our airport, chaired not so well, when I felt intimidated and afraid of being heckled by those with a different view to mine. However, I'm told this could be the last chance I may have to address the Inspectorate so I wish to take this opportunity to challenge some of, what I perceive as myths, 'fake news' and scaremongering in relation to saving, restoring and keeping our airport.

FACT : MANSTON AIRPORT HAS BEEN HERE FOR 100 YEARS; FLIGHTS TOOK PLACE IN BOTH WORLD WARS, as well as civilian and RAF/USAF flights inbetween

Myth : Our children's education will suffer as a result of aeroplanes flying overhead.

Fact : a) Exam results compare favourably with areas without airports close by

b) There is no evidence to prove our children's education has suffered as a result of flights overhead

c) KCC still have Secondary Selection (11+) and every year our 3 grammar schools have been oversubscribed

d) We live under the flightpath and have fostered/looked after over 60 children; some of whom have gone on to University

e) For this argument to hold water, the areas of other airports would have to report lower educational/academic achievements

– e.g. LHR, LGW, LUTON, STANSTED etc.

Myth: Aeroplanes will fly 200 yds above our heads over Ramsgate town, the beach and harbour

Fact: Not true; simply not true; my only proof is living, shopping and swimming here!

Myth : We will all die from the fumes and air pollution (I would be interested to know if this myth is evidenced by the population of

HEATHROW, GATWICK, LONDON etc.)

Fact : a) I think that there is not sufficient proof of this, given the more plentiful, frequent and closer risk of transport daily and interminably

b) MANSTON flight path - take-off and landing – is predominantly over the sea i.e.

hardly over the land

c) Take off is one way; Landing another – meaning less flights overhead in the same area

d) Electric planes are becoming a reality – Rolls Royce investing heavily in this just now - meaning less pollution

e) Rocket flight is a thing of the future – with half-hour flights rumoured for Australia!

Contradiction : If a proposition to build 4,000 houses goes ahead, I submit there will be FAR more pollution from the 1 or two cars per household

Myth : There will be night-flights and 83,000 flights a day under RSP’s plans – where DID this figure come from?

Fact : “There will be no scheduled night-flights from MANSTON INTERNATIONAL between the hours of 11p.m. and 6 a.m.”

(I do not have a figure confirming the number of daytime flights.)

FACT : Both Gatwick and Heathrow airports need another run-way for space, planes and cargo.

FACT : It is said it will take 10 years to build an additional runway at Heathrow, costing billions of pounds

FACT : MANSTON has the third longest air-strip in the country

FACT : BA and Richard Branson trained their pilots with new aircraft here, and CONCORD landed and took off here

FACT : MANSTON has the capacity and space for cargo planes and cargo storage/delivery

FACT : MANSTON will also have the facilities for maintenance, salvaging, repairs and restoration of aircraft

FACT : THANET sometimes gets called ‘The forgotten planet’; banded in with the rest of Kent; yet is one of the poorest and most forgotten areas in the land.

Consider this table:- THANET NEEDS JOBS. OUR YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TRAINING, APPRENTICESHIPS, EMPLOYMENT!!!

April 2018	Canterbury	Dover	Shepway	THANET	KENT
POPULATION	162,500	114,600	111,000	140,800	
					1,540,400
Area of land in hectares	32,079	32,040	36,050	11,071	
					362,236
Unemployed 18-24	1.3%	5.4%	4.0%	6.9%	
					3.1%
Unemployed Number	1,495	2,155	1,615	3,760	
					18,265

Source ONS -----

- It is worthy of note that the highest rate of suicide in our country is amongst 16-24 year old.

- PASSENGER FLIGHTS Thanetonians face additional expense and lose virtually a day of their holiday travelling to and from HEATHROW. Needing to check in 2-3 hours before a flight, we have to allow for a drive of 5 or 6 hours to be there in time; given the inevitable traffic jams on the M25. There is the cost of a taxi, the cost of parking there whilst out of the country, or staying

in an hotel overnight for early flights. Travelling from SCHIPHOL/AMSTERDAM by KLM to MANSTON INTERNATIONAL took approximately 35 minutes and I was indoors putting the kettle on 20 minutes after landing!! I sat next to a French businessman who said it was his 6th flight from MANSTON INTERNATIONAL; how much he preferred it to the London airports and how much quicker and cheaper the whole journey was for him! I am mindful that, apart from the airport being an asset for employment and travel convenience for passengers from the South East we can consider the prospect of visitors and travellers boosting our economy and flying in to tour and to visit US!

Finally, I wish to refer to our Regency and Victorian buildings, some of which are listed. Anti-airport propogandists are using these and referring to them as part of their opposition to our airport opening and being functional again. I wish to emphasise the very fact that these buildings were built in Regency and Victorian times (this is ROYAL RAMSGATE, after all, with the only ROYAL harbour in the country!), and are still standing after 2 world wars, bombings, doodle-bugs, Concord, the Red Arrows, the Royal Airforce, USAAF and passenger airlines! Our house was built in 1908, we live directly under the flight path and have never been troubled in any way by flights into Manston Airport.

Your sincerely,

Annie Webster

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