

Submission by Gemma Dempsey

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RE: Application by RSP for an order granting consent for the reopening and development of Manston Airport in Kent

Request for comments and further information

I am writing this submission as a full time resident of Ramsgate who moved and bought a Grade II listed house (one of many in this beautiful town) in 2016 – a house which will, if the RSP plans go ahead, be under the proposed flight path. I am also a Voice Over artist, Radio Presenter, Writer for Ramsgate Recorder, Producer of Ramsgate’s Festival of Sound and Airbnb host. All of the aforementioned require that the environment is peaceful and devoid of intrusive sound. As a result, should the airport reopen, my livelihood will be directly and negatively impacted and I will be forced to consider selling my house and moving elsewhere – a house I may well lose money on due to the controversy regarding Manston airport...

Over 20,000 people come each year to the Ramsgate Festival and the reason we created the Ramsgate Festival of Sound as part of this is due to the many sound artists, music composers and producers that have made this town their home. Having low flying aircraft over their place of work and creativity will force them to relocate. As for the future of the festival, who wants to come to an event that is all about listening to sound and music in various Ramsgate venues when you will regularly be unable to hear what has been created? Not to mention a deterrent to all the other tourists coming to stay here throughout the year – why make this your destination for some ‘R & R’ when your rest and relaxation will be regularly disturbed and your lungs will be exposed to particulates from aircraft air pollution – as well as the extra traffic on the A299 which is already a very busy road in and out of Ramsgate ...???

The damage to the environment by air traffic and the increase in vehicles in and around the airport, has been well documented. Thanet District Council has declared a climate emergency in line with many other councils and cities around the world. Why would you approve of an airport that goes directly against this directive and will harm the local population by what they ingest as well as the disturbance to their daily lives and peaceful sleep at night?

I therefore totally reject the idea of this airport being reopened on the grounds of it being detrimental to one of the few burgeoning industries in Thanet – its tourism, as well as being a deterrent to the creative community who came here to enjoy the peace the town afforded. I also reject it on the grounds of it being environmentally unsound and contrary to protecting our planet from further climate destruction. Finally I reject it as it forces me to reconsider living here as I will lose all my revenue streams and the Ramsgate Festival of Sound will be no more.

When I chose to move here I researched the airport but from what I discovered and was told, there was no chance of it being reopened as various well established and experienced aviation companies had tried and failed to make it a going concern, and indeed had suffered substantial losses. RSP has no proven track record of running an airport so what hope have they to succeed where others have failed? My neighbours told me they would have to stop talking mid sentence while planes flew overhead. Why would you want to inflict this way of life on 80,000 residents (Ramsgate, Herne Bay and environs) ?

This is not a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure' project because it is not needed! Nor is it wanted by many of the local residents. All of my points above can be backed up with evidence that has been supplied by other Ramsgate residents that have already made their submissions to you. I would hope you already know of the evidence and facts as part of your due diligence into this application by RSP. Many of Ramsgate residents have spent countless hours pouring over the paper work and responding to the applications and keeping others like me informed. They have invested their time and energy because we love this town! We see that more and more people are moving here to live and tourism is on the rise. Approving an application from a company that has no track record in this area goes against common sense and will ruin this beautiful and historic town and our planet for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

Gemma Dempsey