

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Manston Airport](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Reopening of Manston Airport  
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Dear Sirs

I was born in Thanet in 1948 and have never left the area. I remember, from an early age, Manston in it's heyday as a base for our own Royal Air Force and for a time the United States Air Force, followed by it's transition to a civil airport which saw visits by Concorde, the world famous Red Arrows, test flights of new British Airways aeroplanes and various airlines for both cargo and passenger flights. What followed was years of decay and destruction of it's infrastructure and loss of it's CAA registration.

Then a beacon of hope when Riveroak Strategic Partnership revealed ambitious plans to bring Manston back to life as a state of the art cargo hub which will generate thousands of jobs, not just at the outset, but for years to come.

For many years Thanet has become one most deprived areas in the country with high unemployment resulting in the inability for residents to purchase their own homes, instead having to rely on the private rental market with many applicants for each and every residence that becomes vacant. The miniscule number of "affordable" new homes is still way beyond the reach of the majority of Thanet residents because of high unemployment. Riveroak have the passion, ability and resources to change this by providing employment for not just Thanet residents but for the wider community, which in turn will bring much needed regeneration, pride and prosperity.

I am, of course, aware of those who will say that cargo aeroplanes are noisy and dirty, but I strongly suspect that their beliefs are based on the past. Innovation in flight technology is changing almost daily and there is no doubt that Riveroak believe wholeheartedly that their plans for Manston will encompass current and future technology with climate change at the forefront.. There can be very few companies like Riveroak who have such passion for such an enormous project and have carried on with that passion despite all the setbacks and obstacles which have been presented to them. Many would have walked away but Riveroak are still there as they share the belief of most of Thanet residents that Manston can be great again and can provide employment, prosperity and security not just for them now but for future generations.

The majority of Thanet District Councillors are supportive of the DCO, which if granted will, without a doubt, regenerate not just the local area but nationally and indeed internationally for aviation and supporting industries. There are regeneration plans for the port of Ramsgate and the high speed rail link which coupled with the plans for Manston will, once again, put Thanet onto the map not just for visitors but also encourage businesses to invest in the area.

We have all seen the results of even the smallest delays at Dover - Operation Brock where parts of the M20 motorway are turned into a lorry park as cross-Channel crossings are delayed or halted. With a state-of-the-art air cargo hub on

the doorstep situations like this could become a thing of the past.

May I respectfully ask that the DCO be approved for the good of Thanet and it's resident, and the country as a whole.

With kind regards

Mrs Jackie Datlen

