

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: For the attention of the Manston Airport Case Team
Date: 20 June 2021 14:53:02

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am 63 years old and have lived in Thanet my entire life, and in fact I worked at Manston Airport for 20yrs (1985-2005).

I support the RiverOak DCO application as I firmly believe that Manston Airport should be re-opened not only for the benefit of the local area, but also because I believe that it would have benefits to the wider area and it is also a National Infrastructure Asset.

RiverOak have done their homework and know exactly how to make Manston a success. Cargo has always been the core business at Manston and will be of more importance to local & UK economy in the post Brexit future as we increasingly trade more & more beyond the EU. One only has to look back on the events of last Christmas and the lorry chaos in East Kent to see how fragile the road transport network is, and how easily our national supply lines can be disrupted. We must have alternative routes, and airfreight is the obvious choice, particularly for produce & medicines. The air freight sector has been growing year on year for some years now, and it that increase is growing even faster post-brexit.

The argument that there is spare capacity at the major UK airports may be true at this current time, but as the world returns to regular tourism and business, that capacity will no longer be there, but the increasing demand for cargo will and so will the need for dedicated air freight handling centres.

Another argument used against RiverOaks plans is that people don't want noisy, polluting cargo aircraft operating over East Kent. Well they are in luck, because all cargo aircraft operating into the UK have to meet strict noise & environmental limits, with operators now using modern, quiet, fuel efficient aircraft such as Airbus A330's & Boeing 777's. In addition, the aviation industry are working hard to continue to make progress on ever quieter and more environmentally-friendly engines.

RiverOak have already made it clear that they intend to make Manston a carbon-neutral airport, and also that they have no plans for operating night flights, unless it is for medical or humanitarian reasons.

Thanet is an area with very high unemployment with the few jobs that there are available being in either retail or the care industry, and it is crying out for a broad range of quality jobs. Many of those jobs will become available on the airport itself, but many more will also be with associated businesses in the surrounding area which provide support services to an airport operation. Apprenticeships will be also be available to give young people the start in life they need for a long, successful career.

The local Universities are also keen to work with the airport to provide training & qualifications in a wide range of areas.

The tourist industry will also benefit from Thanet becoming a prosperous area rather than a run down one as it is now, and again this will have positive benefits to the wider area and the people of Kent. Since the airport closed visitors to both of the museums has fallen dramatically, potentially putting them at risk, but with airport operations resuming, visitors would return as people not only just visit the museums but also enjoy watching the aircraft coming & going while they take a refreshment break during their visit.

Basically Thanet, Kent and the whole of the south-east need Manston to reopen to help

provide a positive future for everyone. Lets start doing something to create those quality, long-term jobs that future generations want & deserve.

I may be coming to the end of my working days, but I am keen to see that there are ample opportunities for the younger generations to have the chance of quality jobs in their local area, and for them to feel that they have a bright future ahead of them.

Best regards,
Adrian Dowling

