



27th June, 2021

For the attention of the Manston Airport Case Team

The need to retain MANSTON as an airport-

I support RSP's exciting plans -

*We need jobs, apprenticeships, employment, **HOPE** : The Isle of Thanet has the highest number of unemployed people in Kent (9.4%) and the highest number of unemployed 16-24 year olds – 14.9% well above the national average). Suicides are recorded as highest among adolescent boys.*

For employment, conservation, apprenticeships, education – I believe an aircraft maintenance, recycling and engineering facility to be a worthwhile project, salvaging waste – meeting many needs especially in providing opportunity for young people, apprenticeships, education and employment in Thanet – a very high unemployment area.

RSP offer massive investment to this impoverished and neglected area of Kent. Local people are desperate - grateful even to RSP for their belief and commitment to this isle and hope very much their exciting plans and proposals can be given the go-ahead and come to fruition.

The site is designated. STILL, for aviation purposes in both the existing and emerging local plan; voted in by Thanet District Council.

- a) I believe there is a need both strategically and defensively to retain Manston as an airport (Russian submarines and ships have been seen to patrol our waters):-.*
- b) Any promise of a 3rd runway for Gatwick or Heathrow is years away costing billions of pounds when we have MANSTON here, available now; and, with one of the longest airstrips in the country, to provide relief also – in times of strike, diversion, emergency and adverse (weather) conditions elsewhere.*
- c) Mindful of b) above) and internationally, there is urgent need for a cargo hub and major international centre for airfreight. Again, valuable space for cargo at MANSTON INTERNATIONAL would 'free up' LGW & LHR should either or both choose to diversify in this way.*

I support RIVEROAK plans

- a) to retain our airport as an airport*
- b) the layout, buildings and designated areas.*

Environmental, economic or social aspects. Need

*a) that, archeologically and historically, there is much of our heritage to celebrate, preserve and protect, including what we owe to 'the Few' of the first and second world war, the fact that Manston airport has celebrated its centenary and being mindful of the significance of RAF MANSTON and its museums/memorials **to our country and this community***

b) with planes landing and taking off on the MANSTON runway much of any pollution is over the sea with flights hardly much over land or few dwellings around (unlike Heathrow or Gatwick).

The voting majority of Thanet residents repeatedly support the retention/renewal of MANSTON AIRPORT, when voting for our (2) pro Manston MPs; supported by a number of facebook site members and a petition this year raising 2,328 signatures.

K. A. WEBSTER