

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: For the attention of the Manston Airport Case Team
Date: 08 July 2021 23:46:29

Dear sir/madam,

I write now in support of development of Manston airport.

The airport development, or revival as it has already existed as an airport for around a hundred years, is proposed principally to be a cargo hub but clearly it's future could involve other uses in the fullness of time. That aside, it is an opportunity to provide a focus for employment in Thanet and the surrounding area that is known to suffer some of the highest unemployment in the country.

It is evidenced from other airport locations that an airport can serve as a nucleus from which other services are developed; engineering support, transport links, education and all sorts of other businesses that can benefit directly or indirectly from aviation activity. It is almost irrational to expect that a significant majority of the local population supports the prospect of aircraft overhead but it is established to be the case. There have been numerous unbiased surveys in this respect showing positive support. There are of course some that have said it is unnecessary and would spoil the local tranquillity but employment is more critical for this area.

On a wider view, I consider it important that the UK develops it's aviation facilities as they are going to be crucial in this post Brexit and post Covid Britain. I was interested to research how many countries are continuing to expand and improve their airport infrastructure, including in many instances new airports. Losing Manston as a functioning airport would be detrimental to this country. Once lost, it would be impossible to replace in Kent and it is known that expansion of other airports i.e. Heathrow, is problematic. It is additionally well publicised that world trade, much of which requires air cargo, continues to show strong growth.

In summary;

The majority of Thanet residents support the return of Manston as a functioning airport, Support is based on the prospect of improved employment in East Kent and Thanet, plus the overall benefits to UK trade,
Without significant cost to the UK taxpayer, private investment is prepared to provide the required infrastructure at Manston,
We need to do everything possible to aid recovery from Covid,
Likewise, Brexit provides its own challenges and Manston can only be a positive as the new independent UK develops.

Best regards

Les Brown

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