

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: For the attention of the Manston Airport Case Team
Date: 09 July 2021 10:27:18

Hi

I see that yet again, the loudest (but smallest minority) are being heard as if their words mean more based on snideness, dishonesty and outright lies.

I don't live in Thanet, I'm down the line in Whitstable.

I am a foster carer with no liege to aviation barring a personal liking of jets. But I like technology, cinema, days out, cooking and photography. Oh, and motor racing, canoeing, fishing, walking, climbing, holidaying. I'm average and normal. I think.

My wife and I decided to foster because at age 48 I was struggling to get a job. There were zero jobs in Thanet (that's maybe two less than currently) and few around Kent generally. House building and people movements to this area were increasing (and incredibly have been further ramped up recently).

When a supermarket opens, [REDACTED] (opinionators with zilch credibility) big it up as a creator of jobs. Normal, average people, knowing little economics but having vast swathes of commonsense, know that sort of opening merely displaces other shops's footfall and they ultimately tend to close. Gone forever. And the likes of those big shops use half the labour to sell the same goods at a bigger mark-up.

With me so far?

I had shares in Wiggins, [REDACTED], I lost every penny. I believed that ANY half-decent management could make Manston Airport WORK. The management was airy-fairy, non-decisive and had too many noses in the trough. It failed miserably.

Now we have a company come along and are looking to invest. It won't be a supermarket which displaces other jobs. It doesn't have a management team bent on filling their own pockets. It wants to utilise

a asset that has served the UK for decades. It is a multi-faceted company that has demonstrated they are wishing to make best use of this asset and invest in long-term targets that will bring economic growth and an aspirational place for employment. It will be able to grow and alter direction depending on current aviation climate. The management have kept in direct contact with the local populace to inform and educate without hiding or being caught out in lies or mis-truth. Credible and sincere.

Those that vociferously oppose put a leaflet through my door telling me what the airport will destroy, what damage has been done in the past and in BIG letters telling me my home will be devalued and I won't be able to sunbathe due to dumped fuel. Lies, mis-truths and baloney. And that's the difference Joe Public needs you to know.

The above is me and my personal view. Whenever I chat with average, common-sense friends or even the "bloke in the pub" (though I'm teetotal) I hear things that convince me (and will hopefully convince YOU) that the need far, far, outweighs any of the frivolous, self-serving (and mostly childish) objections. I suppose I could have lied my way into a local councillor job then totally abused that position of influence to propagate more lies and codswallop. But I'm just a Dave. A normal guy. Here's what I have picked up, educated myself on and put forward as fairly reasonable and understandable reasons for considering Manston Airport's development, by RiverOak and it's various partners (including so many local individuals and companies) in a favourable light. At the end of the review perhaps my kids and the kids we foster can live their lives in optimism of jobs and a future.

We have Thanet District Council (I know, mere elected Councillors) actually endorsing Manston as being "safeguarded for airport related uses. Whether or not the DCO is confirmed" they motioned and approved this with all the poison of the minority objectors in their ears and STILL decided Manston was a brilliant place for a prosperous Thanet and it's residents!

The Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS) has been reinstated. It was really to big-up Heathrow BUT specifically it the policy mentions ""Making Best Use" of existing runways". Well there's a

really big, usable (with some small works) runway here at Manston!

It also highlights the need for increased Airport Capacity and for both freight and passengers. That's good for Kent and wider tourism if passenger flights get the upsurge expected.

It is well known that e-commerce across the world has vastly increased/expanded. We see ever increasing numbers of cargo planes – Manston could so easily take on a nice chunk of that increased capacity (jobs and more jobs!)

With the Ever Given doing a sterling job of a) blocking the Suez Canal for a week and b) demonstrating that 20,000 containers of product, some urgently needed, can be held for THREE months and c) have a concertina effect across the world for traders and seriously needed items we NEED that ability to switch to fast, direct, cargo movement. An airport in southern England with a very good road and an improving rail network on it's doorstep, would fulfil that gap. Manston.

The anti-airport Nimbys have put forward unsubstantiated garbage on the types of aircraft that could use Manston. As owner/operators RSP could (and have alluded to) getting the quietest and most efficient aircraft coming in. They have conceded to reality but it is totally acknowledged – they KNOW what makes the running of an airport beneficial to the maximum number of residents, users and vested partners.

Those same goods that were on the Ever Given are coming from the Far East, Australasia etc and we, with our “needs” for technology and quality goods, no longer have to have that never-symbiotic relationship with the European countries we have dealt with for forty years. Now we can still trade with them but can create new links and business both importing AND exporting that simply wasn't possible under Brussels. But we need an airport and freight capacity to do it. Manston. Jobs. Prosperity.

I could write loads more. I could mention Air Shows, Military Use, Air Sea Rescue, Air Ambulance, Shopping, Museums, Engineering, Distribution and a few hundred more direct spin-offs. The BIG bottom

line is that the development creates local unskilled, semi-skilled AND professional jobs. It facilitates the entrepreneurial essence of what the UK has always been. Why do people flock here, the British Isles, more than to any other place on the planet when seeking to improve and make the most of talents and abilities. Because we Can, we Do and this airport can make so much for so many in a short space of time but with a long term future.

Just my small contribution. I wish I had got off my butt a lot earlier and maybe read some of the points being forwarded. But there's the thing, I didn't need tons of facts and thoughts. I see them, I feel them, I live in hope that after I've gone all those we've looked after, can get a start. I see very few other opportunities like this in a hundred mile radius.

Dave Heenan 9th July 2021



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