

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: Attention of Manston Airport Case Team
Date: 09 July 2021 12:01:47

I am taking the time to respond due to various interests in aviation.

Firstly, until I was [REDACTED] due to Covid I worked in Flight Safety at the British Airline Pilots Association (BALPA) at Heathrow covering 13 specific flight safety areas including Emerging Technologies, Air Traffic, Occupation Health and Air Accident Investigation.

My husband's family also had the flying school at Manston. His father was an ex-Red Arrow pilot, of the many pilots he trained at his Manston flying school, 4 went on to become Red Arrow pilots, other pilots joined the RAF or the airlines, some just learnt to fly for the challenge.

Manston Airport was closed in 2014 when the family still had 52 years left on their lease which had enormous financial and emotional implications to the family.

Carbon budget:

I feel it important to not think historically but focus on what the future will deliver in aviation. It's already happening.

To not reopen this huge airfield as a freight hub on environmental reasons I feel is very short sighted.

Aviation is becoming greener at a very fast rate; the pressure is on to do this.

The Jet Zero Council and Emerging Technologies groups are pushing greener aviation forward at a pace. I was part of a BA webinar on their future green plans, they are putting hundreds of thousands into greener technologies including building a huge bio-fuel plant in the UK. Other airlines, like KLM, are already using biofuels and newer aircraft are far quieter and have a lower carbon footprint.

Airports too are responding to the green pressure with electric trucks etc and Manston's development to be a freight hub will be along green lines. RSP has committed to net zero from the start so Manston would be ahead of many other established airports. Manston can be a shining example of what can be achieved.

I worked at Heathrow for 12 years and raised my family nearby. I know how near to cargo capacity Heathrow is. I know how congested the roads around London are. It can take an hour to travel 6 miles. Road pollution affects air quality too, but Manston is more rural and uncongested equating to less emissions. Noise pollution is often minimal near airfields with limited flying hours and can soon become background noise. This did not affect our children's education with one sitting the 3-day Oxford entry exams and now having a career in computer chip design.

The government's commitment to the carbon budget, which is due to be passed this month, allows growth in emissions so long as those are compensated in some manner.

Effects of Pandemic on the need for the new airport:

Huge reductions in commercial flying due to Covid has resulted in a direct effect on belly cargo. The increase in e-commerce due to the rise in online shopping due to Covid has put pressure on companies like Amazon and DHL who need more availability to move stock. They too are investing in dedicated freight aircraft as they see this trend continuing. A fast turnaround airport, specifically geared for cargo is essential to serve the market.

Deprivation - the need for jobs:

Skilled jobs are rare in Thanet and motivation for students is concerning. What children need is examples of success and what that success can bring them.

Statistically Thanet has one of the highest unemployment rates in the south.

Thanet has the highest unemployment rate in Kent at 9.4%.

The 18–24-year-old unemployment rate in Kent is 8.7%.

Thanet has the highest 18–24-year-old unemployment rate in the Southeast at 14.9% (Figures from KCC report).

'In 2015–17, people in the least deprived areas could expect to live roughly 19 more years in good health than those

in the most deprived areas. People in the most deprived areas spend around a third of their lives in poor health, twice the proportion spent by those in the least deprived areas.'. These are scary statistics.

My major concern is that as government Pandemic support is wound down unemployment will increase and make the situation even worse in Thanet. A new nationally significant infrastructure project such as this freight hub will give renewed hope to this area.

Manston will provide jobs:

Manston will create thousands of skilled and unskilled jobs, direct and indirect jobs including jobs in the terminals , ground handling, freight companies, import/export roles, airlines, airport and air traffic control, retail and other in-terminal services, airport security and passenger screening, customs, immigration and government jobs, ground transport, food and beverage, maintenance, repair and overhaul, other.

Jobs created by Manston are projected to rise from 14612 in year 5 to 23,215 in year 20, (From Azimuth report).

Flight training at Manston has already trained hundreds of commercial and military pilots - I want to see its return. The family want to return home to Manston.

A concern is also the ever-continuing loss of so many of our airfields to developers. Without airfields to fly to pilots cannot train. Manston has been home to flight training for 100 years.

Policies:

There has been no change in government aviation policies since the announcement of a DCO decision in 2019. However, the TDC local plan does retain Manston for aviation use only, so the RSP DCO is a good way to provide the much-needed jobs, in a way that is consistent with both local and national policy.

The ANPS (Airports National Policy Statement) was reinstated. It applies predominately to the case for the 3rd runway at Heathrow. However, the completion of that is a long way off (if it ever happens) and the ANPS does refer to "Making Best Use" of existing runways. It also indicates the "Need for Air Freight" and the "Need for increased Airport Capacity".

To find suitable land and build new airports from scratch as the need arises in the future is not economically or environmentally sensible when we have huge airfields like Manston ready to be developed.

Brexit:

Brexit and Covid demonstrated the problems for perishable and other cargos by restrictions in channel crossings. The new trade deals now being signed require an increase in airport freight capacity. Manston is positioned to fill this need.

Manston has always specialised in fast turnaround of perishable goods, turning planes around in 45 minutes. RSP intends to maintain this capability.

RSP has a business target to recapture freight traffic which is currently being trucked to European airports, which will save truck emissions.

"The London Resort"

This was accepted for Examination on the 28th January, 2021. This is a £2 billion project and a reopened Manston with the new Parkway Station (due to open December 2022) would all be mutually beneficial.

Any Other Matters

Manston was used by pilots I have worked with as a major diversion airfield due to its length, the major airfields are running at near capacity so are not suitable as major diversion airfields. Landing damaged aircraft has caused significant runway disruption in the past.

BA pilots also used Manston for type-conversion training due to its length and landing slot capacity and reasonable landing fees.

Before its closure Manston was also home to many of the SAR helicopter pilots who I worked with at BALPA, many of whom are hoping to return to Manston as their base. Again, skilled jobs and an incentive to young people to aim high - very high!

References:

Government response to Carbon budget

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-enshrines-new-target-in-law-to-slash-emissions-by-78-by-2035?fbclid=IwAR1meRibsuAmMxB3OuNv5sJjkSuxq_WBg1L7gKB7yNb-c0FyHHxz7o68U6U

	<p>UK enshrines new target in law to slash emissions by 78% by 2035</p> <p>The UK's sixth Carbon Budget will incorporate the UK's share of international aviation and shipping emissions for the first time, to bring the UK more than three-quarters of the way to net zero by 2050.</p> <p>www.gov.uk</p>
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Freight recovery

https://www.iata.org/en/pressroom/pr/2021-03-02-01/?fbclid=IwAR2jISXwsBTgPBvQtmw-_kfOlOHsQWQnKtFdAZNaLtdagAN8OmiUQLOhIOQ

	<p>January Air Cargo Demand Recovers to pre-COVID Levels</p> <p>IATA released January 2021 data for global air cargo markets showing that air cargo demand returned to pre-COVID levels for the first time since the onset of the crisis</p> <p>www.iata.org</p>
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Deprivation KCC report

https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/8182/District-unemployment-bulletin.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0nsZp4deG00wffqH8ljqhcktsqKQZ8ay3o2ecUkS6Uuskz1_MBIS1brdYsU

Deprivation Kings fund report

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/what-are-health-inequalities?fbclid=IwAR0GbzweDR90heCE5ITW7qseV0Or3egHoyR1Nfg2YkfNOrdbE5YDqatRc8U>

Jobs - Azimuth report

https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR020002/TR020002-002459-7.4%20-%20Azimuth%20Report.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3SY2ojcn9W5VwyL7FAINXsekiYQHMCJilm_ffFo3PSIQ5-iz59IMiCWvs

Policies - Thanet Local plan

https://www.thanet.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Thanet-Local-Plan-July-2020-1-1.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3SLDOWuOm3fS0HY0OdWpW9T1eQPVqSCzJ7R-djwZKflq1_dQajhP-DYJg

Policies - ANPS

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/858533/airports-nps-new-runway-capacity-and-infrastructure-at-airports-in-the-south-east-of-england-web-version.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0MP0vuUjleOCMq-KJ8G0WkFlZ_rq6rMYKfDn44WHeAA-Fxr-5q0d1eK1s

“The London resort”

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/BC080001/BC080001-000387-6.1.3%20ES%20Chapter%203%20-%20Project%20description.pdf?fbclid=IwAR34n6X6e72yPEIQBSyQRb8WoVrYUYgrJCKqMRX0vi9dWkclEwuzYxlfmB8>

Yours sincerely,

Antoinette Girdler