


From: 
To: [Manston Airport](#)
Subject: "For the attention of the Manston Airport Case Team"
Date: 09 July 2021 15:56:34

Dear Sir / Madam,

What Manston needs most is forward and joined up thinking!

--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The local plan for Thanet has now been adopted and reserves Manston for Aviation use. The plan also provides something like 16,000 houses to be built across the area. These houses are supposed to be for the people of Thanet. However, unless we start to see job creation at a level that will enable the people of Thanet to afford these houses that will never happen. A new and improved Manston Airport could provide those jobs and the knock on effect to other businesses will also contribute to the prosperity of the area thus supporting the Government housing requirement.

--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->During the pandemic we were full of praise for the NHS (and quite rightly so) but little was said about the cargo pilots that were, and still are, flying flat out. Before passenger flights all but came to a stop Gatwick and Heathrow were already operating to capacity so when we finally recover from the pandemic, slots will once again be in short supply and a dedicated cargo hub is going to be needed more than ever.

--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Since the decision on Manston was withdrawn we have lost a further airfield at Maypole which was west of Manston. This left many General Aviation (GA) pilots looking for places to hangar and park their aircraft. Whilst Lydd and Headcorn could offer parking there is, at present, no hangarage available as the hangars are full. General Aviation may seem to be of little consequence but it is through the schools that operate around the Country that airlines pilots and some military pilots start their flying careers. At the present time, following the pandemic, there may well be plenty of pilots available but if we don't continue to train them, in future we will have a shortage.

--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->A reopened Manston would also be able to offer a much needed Lower Airspace Radar Service (LARS) in this south east corner where the airspace is becoming more and more congested as GA is pushed further and further out from London.

--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->On the engineering front there continues to be a massive shortage of Licenced Engineers for GA aircraft and unless that is resolved soon, and younger engineers start to come through the system, when the older engineers retire there will be no one to replace them. The training facilities planned for Manston along with the cargo hub and a place for GA is an opportunity that it would be very short sighted to lose. To build a new runway at Heathrow or Gatwick is going to takes up to 20 years

but will be of no benefit to GA, we all need additional runway space much sooner. The pandemic has temporarily taken the capacity issue away but the breathing space we have may not be long.

--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->There is much talk about the noise and air pollution that would be produced having an airport based at Manston but aircraft have made massive advances since the days of the Boeing 707 and the like. The aviation industry is constantly working towards more efficient, environmentally friendly and quieter aircraft so the impact on the environment is going to be less than when the Airport was operating in the past.

--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Roads are becoming increasingly congested and connectivity around the Country is going to suffer. We are already seeing a shortage of lorry drivers so the ability to be able to fly cargo (and in the future passengers) from local airports close to the Ports of Dover, Ramsgate and the Channel Tunnel is going to be vital to the future of this Country.

--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->In the past the younger generations were inspired by visits to Manston of the Red Arrows and aircraft such as Concorde and the Typhoon. The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight was not only inspirational but it brought history to life. Now there is very little in Thanet to inspire the younger generation to look to aviation as a career.

--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Manston has already lost the contract for Search and Rescue and the opportunity to show case the Airport during the Golf Open at Sandwich next week has also slipped by. PLEASE don't allow more opportunities for inspiration, education and jobs to slip by any further.

On a personal note, I came to Manston in 1987 to learn to fly and am now the Operations Manager for TG Aviation which was based at Manston for over 30 years. I still live in Birchington, just minutes from Manston, but I now have to drive to Lydd to work because that was the only place we could move the Flying School to when Manston closed 7 years ago. It is a round trip of 2 ½ hours, over 100 miles and the damage to the environment in fuel emissions must be adding up. It also impacts on my health and ability to spend time with family and friends. I am not the only one that has been forced to travel long distances in order to retain their jobs. RSP want us to return to Manston when it reopens so a lot depends on the decision you now have to make.

Yours faithfully,

Sue Girdler (Mrs)

Thanet Resident

Operations Manager – TG Aviation