From:
To:

Manston Airport

Subject: Against RSP"s proposals to open Manston

Date: 09 November 2021 10:47:54

Dear Sir; Madam,

I am writing to you, as a Ramsgate resident, to inform you that I am completely against RSP's proposals to reopen Manston as a freight hub airport.

The effect this would have on local residents would be horrific! I lived in Ramsgate when the airport was running in the 1990's, and the noise from low-flying planes taking off from Manston and flying above Ramsgate was absolutely deafening! Manston had it's day as a small RAF base in the distant past, but it is in totally the wrong place for an airport now, especially a freight hub, with large, noisy planes. The runway is extremely close to the town of Ramsgate and would have a huge negative impact on residents, also driving away tourism. I have just read that Ramsgate has been awarded a £19.8 million grant to improve the local area and which is a really positive contribution to our town. Noisy, polluting planes skimming the rooftops of our homes would totally negate any of these improvements.

The population of Ramsgate is approximately 42,000. Do the profits of RSP outweigh the harm caused to these 42,000 people whose lives would be made a misery by the reopening of an airport?

I can't see any financial benefit arising from the airport. It might provide a few jobs for local people, but it's also highly likely to be mainly automated, and skilled jobs would be given to people outside of Thanet.

Many new homes have been built on greenfield land in Manston recently, and this has expanded the size of the village. The residents living in Manston would be very adversely affected by the noise and pollution when they are living right next door to an airport. Many people would have to consider relocating as it would be virtually impossible to live with the noise levels of a busy airport. I have a flat in Manston and lived there nine years ago when the airport was last open and running. The noise from the small KLM passenger planes coming in and out of Manston a couple of times a day was negligible. However, on the occasions when a large cargo plane was about to take off, the noise from their engines was deafening and frequently woke me up at night.

On a broader note, since Covid 19, many airports that already exist are looking to improve their capacity, both passenger and freight. Surely, this would make the building of a new airport quite unnecessary and a costly waste of money. In the UK, we are looking at ways to improve our carbon emissions, and building a new airport is taking us in the wrong direction.

Manston is in the wrong place. Thanet has sea on three sides so there is only one access road in and out of Thanet. There have been two reports commissioned, stating a number of reasons why Manston should not be redeveloped and reopened as an airport. I'm totally in support of these findings and welcome an end to the worry and fear local residents have about RSP's plans to open a freight hub airport on our doorstep.

Maureen Elliott