

  
2 December 2021

**FAO: MANSTON CASE TEAM/SECRETARY OF STATE**

**REDETERMINATION OF THE APPLICATION BY RSP LTD FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR MANSTON CARGO.**

Dear Manston Case Team,

I live and work in Ramsgate, running a café/bar/restaurant in Addington Street on the West Cliff.

I am writing to state that I am totally opposed to RSP's intention to open a cargo airport at Manston.

My business Eats 'n' Beats is community-focused, providing space for locals of all ages with book clubs, poetry nights and acoustic music events.

We are currently looking at taking over a nearby eight-bedroom, two-apartment hotel with a restaurant and members bar. Our proposed investment for this project is in excess of £2million as we seek to create the highest end of accommodation and entertainment available in Ramsgate.

We intend to employ entirely local staff to work front of house, behind the bar, in the hotel, housekeeping and managing membership, as well as social media, designers and PRs.

If this proposal were to go ahead, we would withdraw from our project immediately, knowing the nose-dive to tourism that would be the inevitable result. This would result in a major loss of local employment and to the regeneration of the town.

It would be lunacy to open a cargo hub, proven by experts not to be needed, as we face the existential threat of a climate emergency. As time ticks towards the net-zero target, we need drastically to reduce carbon emissions, not add more.

The Manston site is less than five miles from the town and cargo planes overhead, night and day, would kill Ramsgate's community. We have a 'permanent' community, full of early retirees who are making the town their final, tranquil destination. It's nonsense to say 'there's always been an airport' when the last plane flew seven years ago and the site is a field, marked as 'permanently closed'. We have a thriving art and Forest school, world leaders in contemporary education. These would suffer immeasurably.

Ramsgate is home to many live venues and recording studios, attracting global artists and generating income that contributes to the ongoing regeneration of the town. Noise pollution, up to 90 decibels day and night, would make these businesses utterly unviable. Many TV and film companies use Ramsgate to shoot on location,

which would promptly stop with cargo planes roaring overhead. In short, the wealth of creativity would be bankrupt.

With a six-year-old and a puppy, the impact of air and noise pollution would force me to consider leaving the town we love. I would not feel safe under planes run by RSP, who have yet to convince the CAA to allow them flight paths due to the loose and scrappy nature of their application, and who are led by a struck-off solicitor with a dismal track record in failed aviation projects.

The Planning Inspectorate carried out a full enquiry into the viability of the project and concluded they would not recommend development consent. This has been backed up by the Ove Arup report in October 2021 and many others in the past. I believe in this expert analysis and trust you will too.

Yours,

Meredith Cork

