

2 December 2021

FAO: MANSTON CASE TEAM

*REDETERMINATION OF THE APPLICATION BY RSP LTD FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE REOPENING AND DEVELOPMENT OF MANSTON CARGO AIRPORT IN KENT.*

Dear Manston Case Team,

Before time is called on the extended deadline regarding the Manston DCO redetermination at 23:59, I am submitting to you some last comments by members of the No Night Flights Over Ramsgate group (and others).

As you will see, they are in agreement with the recommendation of the Examining Authority that development consent should not be granted at Manston and with the Independent Aviation Assessor, appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport, whose October 2021 report concludes:

‘There have not been any significant or material changes to policy or the quantitative need case for the Proposed Development since July 2019 that would lead to different conclusions being reached (compared with the previous ExA conclusions) with respect to the need for the Manston Development.’

1 Susan Kennedy: ‘I’ve submitted many times. Each report by experts and independent assessors reiterates and confirms the many reports before. This airport is not needed in the national interest or the local interest. The application must be denied. Ramsgate is no sacrificial lamb and its residents have had enough of this farce.’

2 Laura Marks: ‘Ramsgate remains bewildered by this heavy handed, politically motivated saga. RSP is riding roughshod over logic and the evidence. The MP for Thanet North is the self-declared MP for this inept application, led by a struck-off solicitor. How is that even allowed? Why are the views of the significant majority, and all of the evidence, being ignored by a small band of politicians with a clear bias? I mean, let's not even go there with Grant Shapps and his disgraceful personal lobbying. Thanet is being bullied into the fake job numbers by a small group of retired locals who fail to acknowledge unemployment has declined since the airport last shut. Nobody is championing green jobs, which we'd all support at the Manston site, through forward-thinking schemes such as wind farm or solar farm initiatives, or the film and TV industry, or even retail giants such as IKEA. We just don't understand what's going on with this pie in the sky plan, and the impact it is having on community relations is something that our MPs should be ashamed of, rather than actively encouraging that division. What is really going on here because I think it stinks?’

3 Teresa Askew: ‘I agree with Susan Kennedy’s remark. Basically, the airport would be ruinous to the recovery of the town as a cultural destination.’

4 Jonathan Bradley: 'On behalf of myself, my family and other self-employed people whose home is also their office, I deplore the idea of cargo planes so close to a population of 40,000. RSP's proposal has been full of holes from the start and it is impossible to place faith in Mr Freudmann, a struck-off solicitor with a dismal record of past failures, let alone his anonymous investors. The business plans defy logic, reason and common sense. Thanet needs real jobs, but for as long as this nonsensical proposition lingers, its future prosperity is being held back. Time to listen to the people and respect the experts at long last.'

5 Seb Smith: 'I am a sixth-form student with a bedroom on the top floor, right underneath the flight path. I would not be able to concentrate on work with planes going over all the time and I'd worry they were going to crash into the roof when they would be so low. Plus I'm a teenager – I need my sleep!'