

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] [k](#)
Subject: Manston Airport, Recent Evidence from Thanet
Date: 15 May 2022 12:31:30

Dear Grant, Planning Inspector, Andrew,

I have been a long time supporter of Manston Airport and have been part of the campaign to reopen it from Day 1. I recently posted to Facebook some of my thoughts, initially on my own page and then to the pages of Westgate Matters, Birchington and Margate. I will disseminate it further as I have time to deal with the comments.

Those opposed to the reopening of the airport have frequently claimed that they represent a majority of Thanet and that the supporters are in the minority. I thought I would share some of the statistics from the post with you.

The post read as follows.

“Manston Airport

In 2014, our local airport, which had been acquired by stealth, was closed after it became apparent that the new owner only wanted to destroy it and build houses all over it. Thus began a campaign by local residents to restore it to operation. We live in a severely depressed area and employment is not easy. We need high quality jobs and affordable housing for our youngsters. The proposed development robbed our youth of employment opportunities and the proposed housing was totally out of reach for them.

We have fought a long campaign and were very fortunate to attract an investor, RiverOak Strategic Partners, who were committed to restoring the airport to operation as a Cargo Hub. That was key to its success as previously it had suffered from underinvestment and a business model based on passenger services.

After a total failure trying to persuade the local authority to compulsorily buy the airfield, RSP embarked on a strategy to use a Development Consent Order to get the necessary planning permission. This was made easier because by this time the previous developer had given up and sold the airport to RSP.

Since then there has been a catalogue of obfuscation and delay by the government in agreeing the DCO, which for a depressed area is absolutely key to its future. There is local opposition from a small but vociferous minority of objectors who don't want aircraft flying over them. But they are outweighed by supporters who used the airport for business and leisure and want to see it restored!. Currently the Department for Transport has been sitting on and delaying the decision on the DCO well beyond the scheduled timetable set out in the DCO legislation. There seems to be another secret agenda at play which is causing massive frustration for RSP and the people of Thanet.

We need more supporters and pressure on the government to make the right decision.

With Brexit and current developments in Eastern Europe it is clear we need to be both more self-sufficient and also able to trade with distant countries, not just those in Europe. An airport is central to such a strategy.

If you want to help or be involved please contact me and join the Save Manston Airport Association!”

Attached are screenshots of the likes for these posts – I think you can interpret laughs as disapproval or perhaps just frustration but clearly the number of likes massively outweighs the dislikes.

As a former regular user of the Airport, I would dearly love to see it returned to service, not only for my own business use, but also as a significant job provider for an area that desperately needs

it! If indeed another agenda for the Airport is in play, I think the decent thing to do would be to tell the local people exactly what that is and to make a final decision on this, so we know where we stand.

As a STEM Ambassador [REDACTED] for schools in Kent there is a massive need for good STEM career opportunities for young people here. The airport could be central to that.

Please expedite the final decision on the DCO!

Professor Michael Grantham

Conference Co Chair

Concrete Solutions

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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Michael Grantham is a former Visiting Professor at The University of Leeds and at Queen's University Belfast, Editor in Chief of Elsevier's Case Studies in Construction Materials and a Past President of the Institute of Concrete Technology.

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[Redacted]

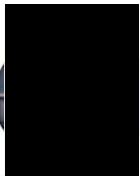
and 49 others

78 comments

👍 Like

💬 Comment

📧 Send



Write a comment...

Like Comment Send



Michael Grantham

☕ • 3 d • 👤

Manston Airport - please feel free to use this this and repost it far and wide. The committee has approved this statement. Either copy and paste to share or visit my personal page where there is a public, shareable version.

In 2014, our local airport, which had been a... See more



[redacted] and 109 others

101 comments

Like Comment Send



Posts



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Like

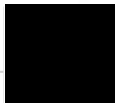
Comment

Send

[Redacted] and 170 others

All comments

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