

Save Manston Airport association (SMAa) comments regarding the RiverOak Statement of Community Consultation

SMAa have compared the Final version of the RiverOak SoCC (May 2017) with the earlier Draft version (Feb 2017), and noted where changes have occurred, with particular reference to the responses by Thanet District Council (TDC) and the No Night Flights group.

TDC Response :

4. Consultation

The public consultation should be open to everyone, and this should be stated in the SOCC. It is recommended that, given the scale of the project and associated impacts, the consultation period should be increased to 8 weeks. This would match

4.1 Statutory consultation under section 47 of the Act will take place between 12 June and 23 July 2017.

4.2 This covers a period of six weeks (42 days). The minimum required under the Act is 28 days.

4.3 This statutory consultation is open to everyone.

RiverOak have further responded to the TDC suggestions by explicitly stating : "4.3 This statutory consultation is open to everyone." (which of course it indeed always was), but the period of the Consultation remains at 6 weeks, which is half as long again as the minimum required by the Act.

6. Consultation documents

6.1

The No Night Flights group wrote a letter to TDC and copied to PINS regarding the Draft SoCC.

However much of their letter concerned matters that are relevant to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), rather than the SoCC, so it will be discussed later :

6.1.4. "A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR); containing preliminary information on the likely environmental effects of our proposals as we have ascertained them so far, including noise, transport and air quality, and how we propose to minimise these effects, as well as how we propose to maximise the benefits of the Project;"

7. How we will make the documents available

7.1 Draft : ... printed copies of all consultation documents will be placed in the libraries listed below for review for the duration of the consultation period. We will check on a fortnightly basis that the full suite of consultation documentation remains available and intact at each of these locations.

TDC Response :

Printed copies of consultation documents should be checked weekly at all deposit location, to avoid a potential 2 week wait for documents within a short timescale. The SOCC should be updated to reflect this.

7.1 Final : ... printed copies of consultation documents will be placed in the libraries listed on page 9, for review, for the duration of the consultation period. Due to the size of the PEIR, it will only be available to review at Deal, Margate and Ramsgate libraries (as well as online and at the consultation events). The other libraries will include all other consultation documents, including the non-technical summary of the PEIR contained in the Overview Report. We will check on a weekly basis that the full suite of consultation documentation remains available and intact at each of these locations.

8. Consultation Events

TDC response :

As indicated in the email sent with the draft SOCC, an additional event should be scheduled based in a village location, either Birchington or Minster. The SOCC should be updated to reflect this. Preferably, two additional events should take place, one in each location.

There is now also a general access Consultation Event in Cliffsend, but it would appear that other Parish and Town councils failed to respond to a similar offer for a general access Consultation Event. However it appears that there will now also be five pre-booking only events for councillors and business people.

TDC response :

No information about when these events are to take place, particularly regarding the days of the week and times of the day, is provided. We expect a mix of weekday and weekend events, and a mixture of daytime and evening sessions. The SOCC should be updated to reflect this.

Dates and times are now as to be expected provided in the final version of the SoCC, and indeed 2 are at the weekend and 5 during the week.

Accessibility and Bus Stops :

TDC stated :

It is disappointing that none of the venues stated in Thanet are on bus routes, which would contradict the principles expected to ensure hard to reach groups are engaged with.

SMAa say it is disappointing that the TDC planning department do not appear to know where the Thanet bus routes and stops are – the Consultation locations given in the draft version have excellent accessibility, and are indeed on bus routes / close to bus stops, as can be seen in the final version of the SoCC :

Location	Address	Accessibility	Date & time
Herne Bay	The King's Hall Beacon Hill, Herne Bay, CT6 6BA	The Kings Hall is served by the number 6 and TRIAN route bus services. There are disabled spaces available in the car park a short distance from the venue and a drop off point directly outside. There is step-free access to and within the venue and accessible WCs for sole disabled use.	Wednesday 14 June 2pm - 8pm
Broadstairs	The Pavilion Harbour Street, Broadstairs, CT10 1EU	The Pavilion is served by the number 56 and also the 8A, 9, 33, 38 and 40 bus services, with a short walk to the venue from the closest bus stop. Disabled parking is accessible and the venue is wheelchair accessible. Please note there is no disabled toilet at this venue.	Thursday 15 June 2pm - 8pm
Cliffsend	Cliffsend Village Hall Foods Lane, Cliffsend, CT12 5JH	Cliffsend Village Hall is served by the number 88 bus, with a short walk to the venue from the nearest bus stop. There is no specific disabled parking area but the village hall has 15 spaces as well as on road parking in the local area. Please note there is no disabled toilet at this venue.	Friday 16 June 2pm - 8pm
Margate	The Sands Hotel 16 Marine Drive, Margate, CT9 1DH	There are several bus routes, including numbers 8/8A/8X, 32, 34 and 36, which include Margate and stop at nearby Marine Terrace adjacent to Dreamland. There are three disabled parking spaces available at the venue and there is both step free access into the hotel and disabled toilet facilities.	Saturday 17 June 10am - 2pm
Sandwich	The Guildhall Sandwich, CT13 9AP	The Guildhall is served by several bus routes including numbers 13/13A, 14 and 88/88A. There is a car park adjacent to the venue which includes spaces for disabled parking and there are also disabled toilet facilities at this venue.	Tuesday 20 June 2pm - 8pm
Canterbury	ABode Canterbury 30-33 High St, Canterbury, CT1 2RX	ABode Canterbury is served by the X15 Diamond bus route service, although there is a walk of 400m from the bus stop to the venue. Disabled parking is available in the library car park opposite the venue. There is a single step into the main reception and wheelchair access is via a portable ramp located at reception. There is step free access within the ground floor where the event is being held and a disabled toilet within the venue.	Thursday 22 June 2pm - 8pm
Ramsgate	Comfort Inn Victoria Parade, Ramsgate, CT11 8DT	Ramsgate harbour is served by the 9, 38 and 39 bus routes and also the Thanet Loop bus service, with a short walk to the venue from the closest bus stop. There is one disabled parking space available at the rear of the venue. There is step free access into the hotel and event room. Please note there is no disabled toilet at this venue.	Saturday 24 June 10am - 2pm