

Gatwick expansion

Three years ago I set up the [REDACTED], a glamping site for people wishing to escape the towns and city and spend time in nature. We are opposite the Pulborough RSPB reserve bordering the South Downs National Park

In the summer sadly it is rare to see blue skies without aeroplane trails. It is rare to not hear the sounds of aircraft overhead. At times, for our mental health and well-being we need to escape and spend some time in peace in nature. Surely that is what National parks are for.

I wish for the day like it was in COVID that the skies remained blue and the song of the birds was not disturbed by the constant overhead drone of aircraft.

I write this as a business owner offering tranquilly in a beautiful nature reserve and dread the thought of an increase in air traffic which already disturbs myself, my family and my business.

I am also concerned about air pollution, climate breakdown, and carrying on like normal as if all is ok.

We cant keep blinkers on continuing to poison the atmosphere and not think of the repercussions. The air industry is one of the elephants in the room. We all know deep down there is a major issue with cheap travel , that aviation fuel is tax exempt.

One day, when we have a carbon tax there will be no such thing as cheap flights like there has been for the last couple of generations. If we build an infrastructure based on continual growth what happens when prices go up and there's no more cheap flights?

I have also spent many years flying overseas, working in Ecuador, where none of my friends will ever afford to get on a plane. Another injustice.

In the UK it is cheaper and faster to fly than get a train, so why use public transport? It seems only those who truly deeply care about our environment and the future make the sacrifices to pay more and to take longer to travel from A to B by public transport.

So is it really OK cheap flights pumping CO2 into the atmosphere so that humans can have a nice time, is it fair that the 1% who fly the most and who contribute most CO2 whilst the majority of humans, who have the smallest carbon footprint never get on an aeroplane?

I talk about justice for those who will never fly, for the animals and the birds who are affected by air quality and the constant sound of aeroplanes, for my own family, myself and my clients who wish to spend quiet time in nature but cannot because we are already under the Gatwick flight path.

Any expansion, any increase in air traffic will cause more stress, mentally, physically and planetary. When will we think about the future and ask when enough is enough? Continual growth is one of the sicknesses of modern humanity and we need to seriously reconsider the way we live our lives.