

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Gatwick Airport](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: A text version of my contribution at the 11:35am session of the hearing on the 28th
Date: 01 March 2024 13:01:21

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I am a very recent former mayor and borough councillor of Crawley, and former member of Crawley's planning committee. I was born in Crawley, raised my family in Crawley, have worked in various service and logistics roles at Gatwick over the years and I choose to live here still. I wholeheartedly support the plan Gatwick Airport has submitted as do thousands of Crawley residents, providing a very sensible solution to an existential problem: the need for greater aircraft capacity in the southeast. A plan to enable Gatwick to grow its business which is crucial for this area and its economic stability, and which will provide increased employment opportunities for generations to come.

Gatwick must get its 2nd runway. The demand will continue to increase, those flights will still happen, and they will still need to take off and land somewhere. Plans for a second runway at Stansted were abandoned in 2010 over the environmental concerns, the increase in footprint it would have involved, building on neighbouring green fields, but that could be reversed. We have here, the opportunity to provide a second runway within the footprint of Gatwick airport. It is the perfect solution.

Boeing recently built its European maintenance centre at Gatwick, specifically for its newest aircraft, completed in 2019 with a £100 million investment, and in 2022 they launched a Converted Freighter line there, turning 737-800 commercial aircraft into freighters to support the strong demand for air cargo. Skilled jobs. At their Gatwick Training Campus, 100 Boeing employees and nine full flight simulators are based, making it the company's largest combined training centre outside the United States. An example of one company throwing countless millions into the future of Gatwick Airport. Gatwick Airport's future looks fantastic, and the second runway has ALWAYS been a part of the plan. It is shown on the original plans in 1952. A promise was made by BAA in 1979 not to build the 2nd runway for 40 years. That was 45 years ago. The second runway is now overdue.

Gatwick is very much a part of Crawley's success and our growth, and as we grow, so must Gatwick. There are 120,000 Crawley residents. Have you heard much if any opposition from them? It's a symbiotic relationship. Crawley needs Gatwick to be successful going into the future. Jobs, training opportunities, economic stability for this area. Because Gatwick is successful, the Manor Royal Business District across the street from this hotel is also extremely successful. Another employment powerhouse for our town.

On the transport infrastructure, over the decades our local road network HAS improved to handle greater traffic volume, and Gatwick train station was reopened officially in November last year their having spent £250 million on expansion and upgrades. They are doing what they need to do to keep pace with increasing demand.

I will end by saying this. The people who will benefit locally from this expansion aren't here to speak. They are in their classes at Crawley schools., at college, or at uni. In a few years, the benefits of the 2nd runway will begin to be felt, and they will be the local people who will have increased job opportunities, thanks to the sensible, forward-thinking decision makers who could see why a second runway at Gatwick was always going to be the best solution for the southeast's growing air transport industry and Crawley's growing population.

Thank you.

Francis Guidera

