

Gatwick Inspectorate DCO 28th Feb 2024 - Response from Morag Warrack on behalf of Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council

Good afternoon.

The cumulative effect nationally and globally of flying is massive, and while I am here to speak locally, the impact of what we are deciding here today is global, so we need joined-up thinking.

We passed 1.5° of global warming last year, so, clearly, we are far from hitting the UK's legally binding government targets. The government are not listening to their own advisors who consistently say, 'No' to UK airport expansion. We have reached the tipping point; we are fast descending into global chaos.

We are the fortunate few, but we must have the compassion and foresight as good leaders to consider the impact of today's decisions on our children, on everyone's children, and what the impact of our **carefully chosen debated** priorities today will be at the end of our short lifetimes.

The world, the UK, and this area which we live in, and love, has become vastly depleted of life in my 70 years, in my innocence and my ignorance. Now, armed with knowledge and understanding, I've been charged to speak to represent Horsham residents, who do not want more noise, more dirt, less wildlife, more traffic overhead and all around them, to the detriment of quiet, contented, healthy community living.

Problems have been obfuscated and benefits exaggerated, and deeply unwelcome outcomes are brushed lightly aside. For example, the **waste** produced by the millions of extra people coming into the area: The proposed Gatwick incinerator would at least have dealt with some waste on site, and maybe the heat generated could have been used at the airport, but merely sorting it out and sending it away is **not** a satisfactory system. There is no 'away' anymore. We are all connected. We can see this from our changing weather patterns.

We are causing the floods, fires, droughts, storms and landslips which make **growing food very, very, very difficult everywhere**.

Biofuel is a mere distraction. One way or another all our fuel, life, energy ultimately comes from the sun and already we can't convert it fast enough for use at the rates we currently do, especially for so many things which are not essential.

HTNC hosted an open meeting for residents. We heard many concerns, not least, worries about our air quality locally, which exceeds three World Health Organisation limits already.

([Central Office of Public Interest](#), [Kings College London](#), & [addresspollution.org](#) for your own street.)

Large groups such as Friends of the Earth share our concerns. The expansion of UK airports is the opposite of what we need to survive in a really healthy, happy, long-term way.

Those who live under **new hyper-concentrated flightpaths or 'air-roads'** will suffer greatly from **noise as well as the invisible killer, air pollution**, and one might be forgiven for thinking the maps showing these new preferred routes are designed to hide their real impact on the communities they fly over. The fact that **'respite routes'** need to be designed in, speaks volumes! The short-term benefits expansion offers to a privileged few, are not worth the long-term detriment to the many.

So many considerations need to be balanced today. What does it take before priorities are shifted away from infinite 'growth' of money for the few, while continuing to remove life-sustaining nature? Have we learned nothing from King Midas? From the collapse of empires?

Where will the water come from to service these extra millions of people who are mostly travelling for fun? Already sewage is being poured legally (and illegally) into our rivers. Already here in West Sussex we have a declared dangerously low water table and there is already confusion over the housebuilding rules: we are required to build homes for thousands of new airport workers and others, but the water each home is allowed is 'impossibly low', as both our MP and district council agree. Homes, transport, schools and hospitals for extra thousands of people is a huge ask for local communities to absorb when already there are schools promised and not built, children commuting on long bus journeys to schools away from their own towns, and a hospital has been demanded, promised and not built for almost half a century. Meanwhile building goes on. Expansion of concrete. It's not 'growing' - we are choosing to build it. It's not 'losing' species. We are killing them. We need insects to survive. Every third mouthful we eat depends on them. Rather than the almost obsessive single focus on financial wealth, creating jobs which support '**wellbeing richness**' in people's lives is what will make for a happier world. Indeed, the **government's own Das Gupta Report concluded that protecting ECOLOGY creates a massive boost to ECONOMY.**

We are not asking people to stop flying. We are merely saying let's keep the status quo. Gatwick is a valuable local asset. It serves us well in many ways. But bigger is not always better. Balance is best. We want to choose a win-win for as many people as possible for as long as possible without melting the 'iceberg' we're all standing on! **A useable second runway does not yet exist at Gatwick, so this plan does not comply with government policy.**

Almost £600 million is set to be invested, and to make a sound decision, surely we all need more clarity on how it would be spent?

I'm speaking for the large percentage of people who rarely if ever fly, but who will bear the brunt of the impact of others' decisions. Today is an opportunity to do good things for the majority of people here, and worldwide, in the face of pressure now, from the minority who hold the purse strings. We are all hypocrites one way or another we all do some good things and some bad.

But what a wonderful opportunity we have here today to create a legacy of a healthier, happier, cleaner, fairer future. We need to use it wisely.

Thank you.

FURTHER POINTS:

- The new **24 hour bus service** – are we to believe this will be continued to be paid for by central government and Gatwick airport? Or would it be removed as has happened previously? The private company which owns Gatwick makes a lot of its income from car parks so we might expect more of those as most people travel to the airport by car.
- The UK is now one of the **most nature depleted countries in the world.**
- Proper consideration should be made of **passing on costs to others outside the private company.** e.g. **NHS dealing with health impacts of air pollution and noise stress, or County Council having to repair roads due to regular flooding & extreme heat caused by the warming.**