

Jennifer Tomlinson – Interested Party Reference Number: 20041621

My main objection to this development is on Climate Change grounds.

The government's own Committee on Climate Change (CCC) have advised that there should be no net airport expansion across the UK, yet the list of UK airports proposing to expand capacity continues to grow. The CCC also said last year that "*Time is now very short*" and "*the scale up of action overall is worryingly slow*".¹

Any airport expansion in the next few decades is not going to help the UK (let alone the world) reach Net Zero any time soon. No airports should be expanding capacity or celebrating their growth, unless or until aircraft are truly free of greenhouse gases (GHG) and other dangerous emissions.

Gatwick makes a big play about the "greening" of their on-site airport facilities, totally ignoring the "elephant in the room" of the hundreds of fossil-fuelled aircraft flying in and out of the airport every day of the year, whose emissions dwarf that of the airport itself.

We all know that the sooner we stop burning fossil fuels, the lower will be the cost of dealing with the effects of climate change in the future. The slower we are at taking appropriate action, the worse will be the effects of climate change – and the sooner we shall all be suffering from climate breakdown – at enormous cost to everyone.

As the CCC pointed out, the commitment made at COP26 to reduce GHG emissions by 68% means that by 2030 "*the recent rate of annual **emissions reduction** outside the electricity supply sector must ... **quadruple***". This includes aviation. How is expanding capacity going to reduce emissions by half, let alone by a quadruple reduction?

Again from the CCC: "*A UK-wide [airport] capacity management framework is needed to manage these decisions. No airport expansions should proceed until this is in place.*"

To me this is a no-brainer, but it seems that for most big business, it is more important to continue lining their pockets from fossil-fuelled destructive practices than to transform the way we do things for the benefit of the whole of society.

Many industries have demonstrated that clean green technology can save money for both business and the consumer, as well as providing more sustainable jobs. But some bigger businesses still appear to be stuck in the past, fearing that they might lose their golden egg if they "give in" to people's desire for clean air, a healthy environment, a thriving natural world, and a liveable planet for themselves and their children and grandchildren.

Any expansion at Gatwick airport, however achieved, will cause:

- More noise (even if individual aircraft get slightly quieter)
- More mental health problems for residents
- More air pollution
- More physical health problems for residents
- Reduced house values
- Continued decline in wildlife (at all levels) in the surrounding countryside
- A less-pleasant rural environment
- More congested roads
- More congested trains
- More flooding
- More sewage problems
- And of course, continued global heating and extreme weather events

I am sure that other respondents will offer evidence for all the above points. I just want to add my voice; I believe that my opinion is shared by many local people who have not had the chance to respond.

These are not just inconveniences. They add up to an existential threat to the lives of people in this supposedly first-world country, as well as globally.

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