

I am strongly opposed to this application for a second runway at Gatwick. These are the reasons:

1. It will add to climate change problems with increased carbon emissions.
2. The emergency runway cannot be used at the same time as the existing runway so this is an application for a new runway and so this application is NOT government policy i.e. to make best use of existing facilities. The enormous construction work is for a new runway as it is so extensive. It is very surprising that the application has got as far as it has, as it flies in the face of all efforts to reduce use of fossil fuels. It is not right to even consider allowing it when we are all trying to do our bit to reduce carbon usage.
3. Increase in traffic on already overcrowded roads in the area both during construction and with increase in passengers is very unwelcome.
4. Overcrowding on the already overcrowded rail line makes life hard for commuters.
5. Increase in flood risk and conversely increase in piped water shortages.
6. NOISE everywhere. The noise from Gatwick is already unbearable for some residents and affects health and wellbeing. More noise and inevitably new and/or concentrated flight paths bringing misery.
7. Loss of tourism to some rural businesses as the increased noise will put people off visiting areas far away from Gatwick as the noise covers such a vast part of Surrey, Sussex and Kent. The increased noise will have a bad effect on businesses that sell a countryside/natural setting such as wedding venues and local historic attractions as well as the hotels that serve them.
8. Ashdown Forest is as sensitive and environmentally important area. It is attractive to visitors wanting outdoor recreation but already suffers from Gatwick arrival noise during a Westerly operation. It is a site of special scientific importance and a special protected area. Gatwick's ambitions run roughshod over efforts to protect the Ashdown Forest and will bring even more unwelcome noise over a precious area of threatened lowland heath that is held dear by local people and local businesses that rely on the proximity of the attractive landscape for their customers.
9. Inward migration of workers will exacerbate housing shortages in the area (Crawley has declared a housing emergency). If there are no houses, then of course commuting will be made far more difficult for everyone on the already overcrowded roads in the area.