

Application by Gatwick Airport Limited for an order granting development consent for the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project

Transcript of comments made by Ken Woffenden at Open Floor Hearing 3 (OFH3), Session 2, on Thursday 2 May 2024

My name is Ken Woffenden. I live in [REDACTED], West Sussex.

I want to focus specifically on aircraft noise and its damaging effect on local residents. I also feel strongly about carbon emissions and transport problems, but others have spoken most eloquently about those.

Already, even before and 2nd runway, aircraft noise and disturbance are at intolerable levels – and it's getting worse all the time. We suffer huge disturbance from Gatwick aircraft now, virtually non-stop. Not just in day time, also at night, disturbing our sleep. It's relentless. And it's audible inside, not just outside. It's a massive disruption to our lives – and highly detrimental to our health.

And this is now – before any 2nd runway! It frankly beggars belief that Gatwick's proposal to build a 2nd runway, with a huge (35%+) increase in flights, has even made it this far. Why is it needed? Surely all to do with corporate egos and shareholder greed, rather than objective need.

What is clear is that – if approved – the existing nightmare suffered by local residents will become even worse.

So what specifically am I asking for?

1. No 2nd runway – enough is enough.
2. Whether or not the 2nd runway is built, I want the following to help local residents whose everyday lives are being blighted by Gatwick aircraft:
 - A total ban on night flights – no ifs, no buts.
 - Can Gatwick please listen to us! They need to show some humility and collaborate with badly affected local residents. Consultation and discussion of possible solutions and palliatives.
 - Far more generous compensation schemes for those residents worst affected.

Thank you for listening.

Ken Woffenden