

From: Christopher Evans
Sent: 27 August 2024 23:01
To: Gatwick Airport
Subject: Norwood Hill Residents opposition - LGW expansion -
Countryside & Rights of Way Act

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in relation to the proposed expansion of Gatwick Airport and the intended adaptation and use of the Northern Runway. The Norwood Hill Residents Association would like to oppose this planning application on the basis that it is in breach of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, the latest amendments of which were made in December 2023. In Section 85 of that Act, it very clearly states that public bodies such as the Planning Inspectorate has a responsibility that has to be considered in relation to this planning exercise.

"In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty in England, a relevant authority other than a devolved Welsh authority must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty".

The countryside around Gatwick Airport is that of outstanding natural beauty. There are multiple public footpaths and bridle ways that criss cross the local countryside. **Footpath 414** is one such footpath that today overlooks Gatwick airport. The proposed planning will directly negatively impact the surrounding environment viewed from this footpath.

The proposed expansion is forecast by Gatwick Airport themselves to increase flight volumes from 47m a year to up to 80m a year. This will cause;

- An increase of aircraft on the ground around the terminal causing additional noise
- A dramatic rise in take off's causing additional noise
- The planes taking off are forecast to be larger and so will make more noise per plane, use more fuel and cause more pollution.
- With and the impact of increase buildings that will be in view and come from the first phase of the build, as well as additional building for car parks and hotels that will have to follow in subsequent phases for the management of the forecast of additional passengers arriving and leaving the airport with the opening of the Northern Runway. All of which will be required based on the forecasts from Gatwick as part of the application. Short term car parking is already full during peak periods and so additional parking is inevitable with the expansion.
- As well as the direct expansion and destruction of an area of natural beauty the **volume of traffic through the Surrey countryside and country lanes, will increase considerably causing further pollution, noise and harm to the local environment across Surrey and Sussex**. This is particularly an issue for East, West traffic with no major routes. With the M25 further North already struggling with capacity and many drivers turning to satellite navigation on phones to find alternative routes on roads through the countryside.
- Furthermore the local sewage treatment facility is already consistently having to dump waste in the River Mole. The infrastructure is just not set up locally to manage this additional volume of people. Whilst water authorities are not allowed oppose planning themselves, it is clear that approval of this application would result in yet more sewage being dumped, harming the environment and flowing down the river Mole through the Surrey countryside. Important to note that this area is one of 36 national protected landscapes of England, having equal landscape status and protection to a National Park. All public bodies have a 'statutory duty of regard' to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the Surrey Hills landscape.

Therefore in light of the clear and documented Countryside and Rights of Way Act, Section 85, for “public bodies” as detailed below in relation to the protection of land of outstanding beauty, you have a responsibility to reject the planning application due to the significant negative impact this will have on the natural beauty of the area.

Best Regards,

Christopher Evans - Chairman



Norwood Hill Residents
Association
Protecting where we live

Appendix 1- Exert from Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.

General duty of public bodies etc

- (1) In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.
 - (2) The following are relevant authorities for the purposes of this section—
 - (a) any Minister of the Crown,
 - (b) any public body,
 - (c) any statutory undertaker,
 - (d) any person holding public office.
 - (3) In subsection (2)—

“public body” includes

 - (a) a county council, county borough council, district council, parish council or community council;
 - (b) a joint planning board within the meaning of section 2 of the [1990 c. 8.] Town and Country Planning Act 1990;
 - (c) a joint committee appointed under section 102(1)(b) of the [1972 c. 70.] Local Government Act 1972;

“public office” means—

 - (a) an office under Her Majesty;
 - (b) an office created or continued in existence by a public general Act; or
 - (c) an office the remuneration in respect of which is paid out of money provided by Parliament.
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Appendix 2- Country Lanes in the Surrey Hills



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Country Lanes in the Surrey Hills

The Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is one of 36 nationally protected landscapes in England, having equal landscape status and protection to a National Park. All public bodies have a 'statutory duty of regard' to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the Surrey Hills landscape.

A key landscape feature of the Surrey Hills is the network of winding, narrow, secluded lanes, often with high banks and hedgerows, connecting villages and hamlets. These lanes are often rich in history reflecting centuries of human use and still retain much of their traditional charm.

Please see the [Surrey Hills AONB guidance page](#) for further information about how we protect and enhance the Surrey Hills, and to download a copy of the Environmental Design Guidance.

The Environmental Design Guidance document sets out guidance for conserving and enhancing country lanes and villages in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to help Surrey County Council, local planning authorities, transport planners, contractors, developers, parish council's and other parties. It sets out some principles and best practice that should be considered in managing country lanes and the design of development within the Surrey Hills.