



GATWICK AREA CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

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What next for Air Travel ?

The Government is producing a new strategy for the aviation industry.¹ Gatwick environmental campaign group, GACC, has told the Government what should be in it.²

GACC chairman Brendon Sewill says: 'A new strategy for aviation must include plans to reduce noise and pollution as well as encouraging the growth of air travel. We are delighted that the Government's draft strategy does not include a new runway at Gatwick. That is a dead duck that should not be resuscitated.'

GACC's suggestions include -

1. Firmly rule out a second Gatwick runway.
2. Use the land safeguarded for the runway instead for housing, industry and tree planting.
3. Pay compensation, on the same basis as with new motorways or new rail routes, to people under 'motorways in the sky' - new concentrated flight paths.
4. Take action to deal with pollution levels around Gatwick - which are now above EU legal limits.
5. Strengthen role of the new Independent Noise Commission to enable it to reduce noise and award compensation.
6. Spell out how much 'subsidy' the aviation industry gains from paying no fuel tax and no VAT (four times as much as it pays in air passenger duty).

Sewill adds: 'We have pointed out that if climate change damage were to be measured by a more accurate method, Gatwick would be seen as the pollution capital of the South East.'³

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/a-new-aviation-strategy-for-the-uk-call-for-evidence>

² GACC response attached.

³ Calculate the emissions attributable to each UK passenger on their outward and returning flight instead of the emissions caused by each departing aircraft. At Gatwick 5 Brits fly out for every 2 foreigners who fly in, so the emissions due to UK citizens are high.

Campaigning for a better environment for the whole area around Gatwick

GACC, founded in 1968, has as paid-up members over 50 councils and over 40 community groups. We have built a reputation for sound judgement and reliable information and thus have the support of all local Members of Parliament.