

GACC NEWSLETTER

Number 141

AUG 2024

So what's next in the Gatwick DCO planning application ?

Deadline 9

21st August, 2024 at 23:59

If you are registered with the Examining Authority this is your last opportunity to submit a comment or statement with your views on the application or a particular part of it. If you are not registered you can still submit a comment or statement but the Examining Authority are not obliged to accept it.

Use your own words where possible for your statement and comment on what you feel or the impact you will experience (or possibly already suffer). The significant subjects to challenge are:

- **No case for development** and overstated growth without the project (leading to unrealistic statement of economic benefits, inflated job claims and understatement of environmental impacts - across the full range of areas listed below)
- **Noise and night flights** (understated in significance, need to reduce noise and night flights in future, airspace impacts)
- **Climate change** (its significance is underplayed, the need to constrain greenhouse gas emissions of flights and surface transport),
- **Surface transport** (continued car dependence causing local road congestion and parking impacts – and impact of already congested rail services),
- **Water (scarcity** of water supply, wastewater treatment capacity and flooding – a problem even now),
- Air pollution (including from both road traffic and flights)
- **Contradictory housing and employment benefits**, local **ecological impacts** ... and more.

You know how you are affected – don't hesitate to tell the Inspectors how you feel. Avoid repeating anything you've submitted previously.

The link to the website is here : [Have Your Say](#)

If you want to view the documents we have submitted in the past 6 months please see them [here](#).

The last day of the hearing is the 27th August after which the Examining Authority has 3 months to reach a decision and submit their recommendations to the Secretary of State for Aviation in the Department for Transport. The SoS then has six months to reach a decision on whether the project will be approved or not.

And therein lies a quandary. We've had a change of government and at the time of writing there's no detailed policy on airport expansion from the new government and the existing

one is currently subject to legal challenge as to its failure to address climate impacts. However a policy statement that's been in place for nearly ten years says: *Labour would make sure that expansion passes "tests on air quality, noise pollution, climate change obligations and countrywide benefits"*.

We are already underway in making sure MP's in the area surrounding Gatwick recognise the severe negative impact Gatwick's plans will have on communities and the environment and persuading them to vote against the proposal. We expect to be able to report more on the position once parliament sits again. The need to make our case strongly is now more important than ever.

Meanwhile thanks to all those who have submitted comments to the planning inspectors or supported us in other ways.

On other news work is still in progress in forming the new Noise Management Board where there are still difficulties relating to community representation. The Airspace change whilst no longer stalled is progressing very slowly and indications are still that further definitive information is unlikely to be available until next year.

As always if you need more information check our website at www.gacc.org.uk. Please join and support us.