



GATWICK AREA CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

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Anti-airport-expansion campaigners send messages of support to GACC as Gatwick Airport reveals plans to bring emergency runway into regular use

On the day that Gatwick Airport publishes its consultation on plans to expand passenger capacity by over 65%, the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC) is joined by campaigners around the country to condemn all airport expansion.

On Thursday 9 September, Gatwick opens a consultation into its plan to re-align and widen its emergency (or standby) runway to form a second runway. Combined with plans to intensify use of the main runway, this could see traffic at the airport grow from 45 million passengers and 280,000 flights annually in 2018, to over 75 million passengers and 390,000 flights by 2038, nearly the size of Heathrow. GACC has pledged to oppose these plans.

Gatwick is one of eight airports currently seeking to expand. Campaigners opposing expansion elsewhere in the country have sent messages of solidarity to GACC. These are set out below. Peter Barclay, Chairman of GACC, said, *“We welcome the support GACC has been given by fellow campaigners. The Climate Change Committee has been absolutely clear that airport expansion is not required and is incompatible with the UK’s emissions reduction obligations. We will work with groups around the country, who face the same threats to their local environments and to the climate that we do here at Gatwick, to oppose airport expansion anywhere.”*

BRISTOL

A public inquiry is currently under way into Bristol Airport's appeal against the North Somerset Council's refusal to grant planning permission for expansion. The outcome is expected to be published some time in the Autumn.

“The Stop Bristol Airport Expansion campaign, representing a coalition of individuals and community groups across North Somerset and the surrounding region, are fully opposed to unsustainable Airport expansion at Gatwick. On 2nd September the UK Government announced new carbon valuations, effectively repricing the cost of emissions to reflect the national zero emissions target for 2050. As a consequence, the cost of flying will

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.

increase and passenger numbers will inevitably decrease. With the start of the COP26 just a few weeks away it's beyond belief that Airport expansion anywhere is still under consideration."

Stop Bristol Airport Expansion campaign www.stopbristolairportexpansion.org

"The UK is currently way off-track to meeting the fourth and fifth carbon budgets as set by the Government's own Climate Change Committee. We have no chance of meeting the sixth carbon budget (which has only just been set) if we carry on expanding airports as the industry would like us to. The aviation industry is literally throwing fuel on the fire of climate change; no more airport expansions!"

Bristol Airport Action Network bristolairportactionnetwork.wordpress.com

"The Parish Councils Airport Association, representing 30 parishes surrounding Bristol Airport, are currently in the Bristol Airport Public Inquiry objecting to any further expansion. We fully oppose any further unsustainable airport expansion at Gatwick. We note that on Thursday the Government announced new carbon valuations (prices) on emissions to reflect the national zero emissions target for 2050. These new values mean that the price of flying is going to up, hence passenger numbers should be lower with less demand. There is no need for any more Airport expansion."

The Parish Councils Airport Association

HEATHROW

Heathrow Airport continues to have plans to expand by developing a third runway when demand returns.

"HACAN stand in support with all campaigners facing unsustainable airport expansion. The Government should place a moratorium on any expansion plans until they have set out detailed and costed policies that show how any growth in aviation is compatible with our Net Zero commitments."

HACAN (Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise) hacan.org.uk

LEEDS BRADFORD

Leeds Bradford Airport wants to expand from 4 million to 7 million passengers per year. In April 2021, Secretary of State Robert Jenrick announced that he was postponing a decision on whether to hold a public inquiry into Leeds Bradford Airport expansion.

"Coming so soon after scientists issued a 'code red' warning to humanity about the climate crisis, the proposed expansion of Gatwick airport is complete madness. The Group for Action on Leeds Bradford Airport supports the

call for an immediate halt on all airport expansion plans - up north, down south, everywhere.”

Group for Action on Leeds Bradford Airport www.galba.uk

LUTON

Luton Airport is only half-way through a 15-year expansion project to double its capacity to 18 million passengers. It has announced it will submit a Development Consent Order in 2021 for massive further expansion of Luton Airport.

“The aviation industry prioritises safety in all respects, yet the government’s support for continued aviation growth recklessly endangers our climate: with no evidenced pathway to achieve net zero aviation emissions by 2050, the only responsible approach is to manage demand downwards, and hence no additional runway capacity is required.”

Luton And District Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise www.ladacan.org

MANSTON

A Development Consent Order granting approval for an air freight hub at Manston airport was quashed in February 2021. A local resident, Jenny Dawes, had applied for a Judicial Review, arguing that opening the airport would be contrary to the UK’s Net Zero commitments. A new decision will be made following re-examination of the evidence.

“It is unthinkable that on the eve of the UK hosting COP26 that any airport expansion should be considered. Action is needed to lower emissions, that starts with downsizing not expansion. We can't ignore this any longer, the Government needs to lead the way, not be led by the airline industry.”

Anne-Marie Nixey, Chair of Ramsgate Town Council www.ramsgatetown.org/town-council

Jenny Dawes’ Crowdfunder campaign: www.crowdjustice.com/case/support-judicial-review-of-man

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton International Airport is seeking to expand its operations through increasing passenger numbers by 50% on 2019 levels. In June 2021, Eastleigh Borough Council granted planning permission for extension of the runway. Campaigners have applied to the High Court for permission to challenge this decision through a Judicial Review.

“In the face of climate emergency we cannot afford any expansion of aviation, especially on the scale envisaged at Gatwick, and the idea that this proposal, which will lead to a huge increase in flight emissions, is acceptable because the airport's own operations are ‘carbon neutral’, flies in the face of both logic and the government's target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.”

Airport eXpansion Opposition Southampton axosouthampton.wordpress.com

STANSTED

In May 2021, Stansted Airport won an appeal to increase their yearly passenger capacity to 43 million people. Uttlesford District Council had refused the proposals.

“Stansted Airport Watch, representing around 7,500 members and registered online supporters opposed to the unsustainable expansion of Stansted Airport, stands shoulder-to-shoulder with those opposing the unsustainable expansion of Gatwick Airport, and calls upon the Government to follow the recommendation of its independent Committee on Climate Change to impose a moratorium on all UK airport expansion until such time as the aviation industry can clearly demonstrate that it is on a trajectory to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.”

Stansted Airport Watch stanstedairportwatch.com

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- Gatwick Airport’s consultation on its plans to bring the emergency runway into routine use opens at 0001 on Thursday 9 September 2021: www.gatwickairport.com/business-community/future-plans/northern-runway
- GACC, together with local residents and councillors, are holding a peaceful demonstration near the airport on 8 September to highlight their opposition to the airport’s proposals. See press release [here](#)