



Campaign Office: 2 Glovers Gate,  
Glovers Road, Charlwood RH6 0EG  
Tel 01293 862821  
[www.gacc.org.uk](http://www.gacc.org.uk)  
[info@gacc.org.uk](mailto:info@gacc.org.uk)

## Press Release

June 8, 2026

### **Campaigning grandmother, 77, walks 16 miles around Gatwick Airport perimeter**

Dorking resident Pat Smith, 77 did a 16-mile sponsored walk around the entire perimeter of Gatwick Airport on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>.

The walk took in rivers, public footpaths, woods and cycleways.

Pat, a grandmother of seven did the walk to raise money towards the £100,000-plus legal fees incurred by Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC) in challenging the Government's decision in September to grant permission for a second runway.

The case went to the High Court in January after GACC argued that the Government failed to properly account for Gatwick's climate and noise impacts, while exaggerating the economic benefits of expansion.

Pat said: "If the court allows the second runway – and the decision is due any day now - Gatwick could be as big as Heathrow is today, handling 100,000 extra flights each year, an increase of 38%.

#### ***Campaigning for a better environment for the whole area around Gatwick***

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

“Gatwick is big enough. If it expands, people and nature across south-east England will be even more affected by aircraft noise, increased road traffic, and pollution to the air, water and light.

“I'm campaigning against the second runway because as a grandmother I care about the health of future generations and of our environment.”

Pat was joined on her walk by Jonathan Essex, Deputy Chair of GACC and Green county councillor for Redhill East. He said: “The interests of big business have more influence over government decisions than do the interests of residents and nature, who pay the price, as always, for the huge profits made by greedy corporations.

“In an age of increasing climate threat, expansion of air travel makes no sense, and the present fuel crisis exposes the vulnerability of air travel. We want to see these damaging and unnecessary expansion proposals put to bed for once and all.”

Pat's fundraiser, open until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026 is at <https://gofund.me/9fbe5f629>.

ENDS

### **Notes to editors**

Photos attached:

1. Pat Smith under flightpath of Gatwick Airport's existing runway
2. Pat Smith and Jonathan Essex on their Gatwick perimeter sponsored walk.
3. Arriving flight over Gatwick Airport parking

To interview Pat: Phone – 0786 755 8284, Email: [pat2africa@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pat2africa@yahoo.co.uk)

For information about the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign:

<https://www.gacc.org.uk/>