

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Applications by London Ashford Airport Ltd

APP/L2250/V/10/2131934 & APP/L2250/V/10/2131936

Site at London Ashford Airport Limited, Lydd, Romney Marsh, TN29 9QL

CPRE/04/B –Quality of Life

Statement by Cllr Roger Joynes

on behalf of Protect Kent (the Kent Branch of CPRE) on Quality of Life

- 1.1 My name is Mr Roger Joynes. I live in Littlestone and have lived in the area since May 1982. I have been an elected member of New Romney Town Council since 2005 and represent the Coast Ward. I am a retired Chartered Engineer by profession, my background being Marine Engineering Power Generation and Protect Management. I am a Justice of the Peace and a member of the East Kent Bench. I am also a Rotarian and a member of the Rotary Club of Romney Marsh, and I am a member of Littlestone Golf Club.

2 CONCERNS WITH THE APPLICATION

- 2.1 Romney Marsh is a very special place to live and has a beautiful, distinctive landscape and vibrant communities that are a mix of long-established families and those attracted to the area by the high quality of life and uniqueness of the area.
- 2.2 I have a number of serious concerns about the impact of an expanded airport on the quality of life of those people living on Romney Marsh, particularly for the residents of Lydd, Lydd-on-Sea, Greatstone, Littlestone and Dymchurch. My concerns are based on my understanding of the proposals and my direct experiences of current and past airport operations.

Adverse Effects on the residents of the community from noise

- 2.3 I am concerned about the noise impacts from the aircraft approach, take-off, taxiing and engine testing. The noise contours provided by the applicants do not take account of jet aircraft taxiing to the end of the runway and turning before take-off.
- 2.4 I am concerned about the prospect of training flights at the Airport with repeated take-off and landing of aircraft. The constraints to the airspace caused by the power stations and the firing ranges may make the airport relatively attractive as a challenging training exercise for commercial pilots.
- 2.5 I am concerned about the ability of the applicant to be able to operate night flying, particularly freight, through the terms of the conditions of the Planning Application and Section 106 agreement relating to the planning application. Under the existing terms of

operation, the applicant already has clearance to operate 24 hours a day.

- 2.6 I am concerned about the impact noise that repeated flying operations will have on the Caravan Parks, Holiday Resorts and sporting facilities whose businesses will be put in jeopardy through owners and potential visitors moving/staying away. This will also impact on local traders who supply these establishments with food, goods and services.

Air Pollution

- 2.7 I am concerned about the deposition of nitrates and unburned fuel on the homes and gardens, grazing land and golf courses around the airport. Kent Wildlife Trust, in their evidence, will examine the impact on wild habitats but I would argue that there will also be a harmful impact on other land uses, which also provide high quality, well managed habitats for a range of wildlife, which is even more important because of the rare shingle habitat of the Dungeness Peninsula.
- 2.8 Because of its exposed location, the air quality of Romney Marsh is generally good. Therefore, while the impact of the airport may not be as great as at other airports, but relative to the current high quality conditions, the impact is likely to be substantial, especially on the young, elderly and the infirm.

Traffic

- 2.9 Mr Gareth Thomas is examining transport issues in more depth in his evidence. However, I wish to highlight the impact from the Airport not being connected to a main sewer is that the foul-water from the incoming aeroplanes and the airport itself will generate significant lorry movements between the Airport and the wastewater treatment works at New Romney. This will increase the number of lorries travelling along the A259 and through the High Street of New Romney and down Station Road, past the Marsh Academy.

Vulnerable locations

- 2.10 I invite the inspector to visit the following locations to familiarise himself with the area and businesses that will be affected by the application:
- Littlestone Golf Club, St Andrews Road, Littlestone, New Romney, Kent, TN28 8RB. Secretary: Mr Stuart S Fullagor.
 - Creedy Residential/Nursing Home, Nether Avenue, Littlestone, New Romney, Kent TN28 8NB. Manager: Mrs Anita O'Neil RGN
 - Romney Sands Holiday Park, The Parade, Greatstone, Kent TN28 8RN. Manager; Mr G Seath.
 - New Romney Caravan Park, Clarke Road, Greatstone, New Romney, Kent
 - New Beach Holiday Park, 133 Hythe Road, Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, Kent. 01303 872233
 - The towns of Dymchurch and New Romney
 - The Marsh Academy, Station Road, New Romney, Kent
 - The Sea Front and Beach, Littlestone