



Mr Jeremy Whittaker  
Regeneration and Economic Development Manager  
Shepway District Council  
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15<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Dear Jeremy

Ref: Lydd Airport

I am writing to you in response to your letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 2010 for further comments regarding Lydd Airport's Expansion Plans.

As you are already aware, Channel Chamber has been very vocal in its support for these plans and we believe this fully represents the strong feelings of most businesses locally and across East Kent.

The local community has enjoyed the benefits of an operational airport at Lydd for the past 50 years. Many of us still fondly remember when there was a bustling programme of flights daily and local hoteliers were busily welcoming visitors from all over the UK. Ironically, this small regional airport now has the opportunity to play a key role in taking some of the pressure off the big aviation hubs in the south-east. Now that Government has blocked any new runways at Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted, regional airports like Lydd surely make good sense since they reduce surface journeys to and from the major airports and thereby help with both road congestion and pollution.

Of course, our members are continually frustrated by the views expressed by a small minority of local residents who simply do not want anything that is going to disturb their immediate environment.

We don't think that Shepway (or indeed the country as a whole) can continue to allow this style of negative campaign to dictate the District's future chances of prosperity and Romney Marsh in particular.

There also seems considerable confusion about where the money is coming from to pay for these airport improvements. Thankfully its all private sector money so nobody in Shepway or Kent is going to make any contribution. It is also clear that a vibrant airport operation will stimulate much needed investment in the transport infrastructure locally which of course everyone will benefit from.

In addition to the new jobs created at the airport itself a host of other local businesses are also set to benefit and we can expect this to act as a magnet for attracting many new and exciting businesses to the area as well.

In conclusion, we must therefore restate our support for these developments AND more jobs, improved facilities and prosperity that everyone in the district can start to enjoy.

Yours sincerely



Sezen Zeki

Chamber Manager  
Channel Chamber of Commerce