

Expansion of Bristol Airport to 12mppa

PINS Ref APP/D0121/W/20/3259234
Planning Application Ref: 18/P/5118/OUT

Proof of Evidence for PCCA

Tracy Harding

Statement to the public enquiry.

Public speaking is not my thing, but I feel very strongly that along with all the important comments that will be made regarding the larger picture of Climate change etc, personal views and experiences should be at the heart of any decision making.

I have lived in Felton since 1976 with my parents and then bringing up my own family. It is a beautiful part of the world and I love living here but the effects of the proposed airport expansion will have an extremely negative and forever increasing detrimental effect on the local area and quality of life.

I am not a 'NIMBY' and I am not saying that I have never flown or do not intend to fly from the airport again, but I am very much against the continual expansion with total disregard to the local environment and relentless erosion of our quality of life.

This most awful pandemic that has forced the temporary closure and grounding of most flights has highlighted the noise and pollution already endured by us in the surrounding villages. We can hear birdsong and almost taste the cleaner air. When the occasional plane currently does take off or land, you can smell the aviation fuel immediately. This highlights the amounts of pollutants normally in the air every day – I worry about the effects of these pollutants on the health of my family, my children and my children's children. (My daughter having recently married).

The problem of noise will be non-stop, the airport is not able to extend the runway so to accommodate the proposed expansion in flight numbers this would mean the removal of the cap on night flights. The constant noise day and night from planes, on the tarmac, taking off and landing and all the associated road traffic will be unbearable. Pre pandemic we would get a few hours of quiet time in the early hours, but this was still only short lived with the A38 road noise starting before the flights – the traffic on the A38 will be non-stop. Sleep deprivation associated with this will impact on our mental health. I do not want to live in a sealed box to keep all the effects out. I feel as if the airport is completely taking over all aspects of my life!

At peak times, before the pandemic, we were having to keep windows closed because of the noise, lanes being used as rat runs, surrounding green belt fields glistening with cars parked, every layby being used as waiting areas by taxis and cars and rubbish (including human faeces). We have horses and even pre pandemic we tried to avoid hacking out at peak flight times for our own safety as the narrow lanes become extremely dangerous with all the extra road traffic. This is not acceptable, and this will only get worse. The thought of what we must endure at peak times being continual depresses me hugely.

I urge you to respect the decisions made by the local councils when it was voted to oppose the expansion and do not overturn this decision.

Tracy Harding