

Expansion of Bristol Airport to 12mppa

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Planning Application Ref: 18/P/5118/OUT

Proof of Evidence for PCCA

Jocelyn Ryder-Smith

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Personal Statement about expansion of Bristol Airport

I live about 3 miles from Bristol Airport and am very concerned about the appeal to be allowed to expand it further. My objections are for a variety of reasons:

- Aeroplanes are a huge source of pollution and damage to the climate. If our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren are to inherit a liveable world, we have to take damage to the climate with the utmost seriousness. I am unlikely to see my great grandchildren born, but I have 6 grandchildren and am deeply concerned about their future, long after I've died. We should fly less, not more.
- Bristol Airport is not well served by transport links – the A38 cannot cope at holiday times with the amount of traffic using it to get to the airport. We often get stuck at such times in traffic jams, and sometimes, when there is any kind of obstruction on the A38, our network of small local lanes becomes choked with cars trying to find an alternative route to the airport. I have been in such a traffic jam, only a mile from home, but unable to get home for over an hour.
- Traffic does not only choke and overload our roads, it adds pollution to our environment – we cannot avoid breathing the noxious fumes. And aeroplanes contribute to the fumes – I can sit in my garden on a Summer's day and smell the petrol of the plane just taken off from the airport.
- Of course planes also create noise – noise which stops conversations and hides the sound of birdsong. But if you allow the airport to have more night flights, our lives will become almost unliveable – our sleep will be broken and our health will suffer. More and more research is showing how large a part sleep plays in our overall health – as important as diet and exercise. Do not take our quiet nights from us!
- In addition to these issues there is the problem of parking. There is not enough parking space at the airport and our beautiful ancient fields, in our precious Green Belt, are often filled with illegally parked cars.
- There is in any case likely to be reduced call for flights, as we've learnt other ways for business people to communicate across the world and the country – people can meet on Zoom, or Teams, or whatever. This saves time and money and helps the environment and climate – let's celebrate this and build on it!
- For all these reasons – the airport must not be allowed to expand! Our health, our environment, our atmosphere, and our wellbeing are all at risk – and above all, so is the world the next generations will inherit.

Jocelyn Ryder-Smith