

Expansion of Bristol Airport to 12mppa

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Planning Application Ref: 18/P/5118/OUT

Proof of Evidence for PCCA

Marney Shears

Marney Shears, Highbank, The Street, Regil, BS40 8BD
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I am against the appeal proposals and support the reasons given by North Somerset Council.

In particular, I am strongly opposed to the expansion of passenger numbers because of the effect such an increase will have on the already overcrowded roads and local environments. At peak times the A38 does not cope with commuter and holiday traffic now.

Long delays are created along the ring road at Long Ashton, traffic lights at Barrow Gurney, traffic lights at Lulsgate Bottom and traffic lights in Churchill. If there is an accident on the M5 or A38 the whole area becomes gridlocked for hours. Drivers take to the surrounding lanes which are not suitable for increased traffic. Many times, I have had to resolve major traffic jams in the lanes and lead people out of trouble.

Illegal car parks are a major problem. As a horse rider I ride out with others including young children. Every day we have to take our chances with convoys of cars being moved from drop off points to illegal sites in fields, behind farms or any spare space that can be found. Because these are uncontrolled, they are in dangerous locations. Drivers are moving at speeds too fast for the lanes, pulling out from blind areas. Then we have the added problem of the 28-day planning rule. Cars are illegally parked on one site until they are taken to another so there is constant movement day and night. The drivers are under time pressures to get cars parked and delivered. Often, they are driving expensive cars so "have fun" with stereos flat out, tyres screeching. I've seen cars being driven with flat tyres and left parked. Alarms which set off are just left until the battery dies. Cars are driven into farm areas at speed where there are children and animals.

There are hire cars being delivered too. I have had near misses with drivers from hire car companies following Sat Navs through totally unsuitable routes to get cars to their collection points. When asked to slow down one replied that they were driving fast because they didn't know the lanes.

On the A38 they will drive across traffic lights, create U-turns illegally and pull out in front of moving traffic. Every layby close to the Airport is full of parked cars which are left to either be parked elsewhere or delivered back to the drop-off points. Some are parked up for days.

Cars are left for weeks in villages and on lanes to avoid parking charges. This causes even more congestion and damage to the local flora and fauna. The ever increasing drop-off charges at the Airport also encourage parking elsewhere in and around surrounding areas. Transport links to the Airport are appalling. The proposed public transport provision is totally inadequate and will not sufficiently reduce the reliance on the car. Anyone who travels on First Great Western into Bristol will appreciate this is one of the most expensive routes to use. Bristol is already at traffic capacity with no suitable public transport or parking outside normal hours on the south side of the City.

To extend the Silver Zone car park to allow the seasonal car parking to be used all year is a totally inappropriate development in the green belt. It will not solve the congestion on the routes to the Airport and it will not stop passengers finding continually cheaper and illegal alternatives.

I am totally exasperated by the lack of any apparent will from the Airport to prevent these problems.