

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

Abi Williams

Abi Williams, Felton

I have lived in Felton all my life. Years ago I saw living by the airport as being a positive experience, it was a small local airport that did not impinge on the local community.

For many years now the impact of the airport on our every day lives has been getting more and more detrimental. The flights are so relentless, especially in the Summer that even inside the house you have to stop talking every few minutes while the aircraft passes. The airport has been operating night flights for years and there have been times when I have been woken up in the early hours of the morning by flights.

The flights are supposed to be limited between the hours of 11:30 and 6 am but regularly, especially in the Summer and at Easter, the flights are still relentless well past midnight and long before 6am. It is impossible to sleep with the windows open in the summer because the flights begin so early in the morning. I have had to sleep with earplugs in every night, due to the noise from the airport for many years now but they cannot block out the sound of an aircraft taking off overhead.

Pre-covid the traffic situation on the A38 and through the village was untenable. Almost every day, especially around rush hour traffic would queue all the way back down the A38 into Bishopsworth. It got to the stage where we knew not to try and leave our house or come home during the peak times as we would either be stuck or have to drive miles out of our way to go through the countryside, avoiding the A38. Trying to get out onto the A38 from the lanes leading to the villages was really difficult. This traffic has also meant that lots of vehicles use our village as a rat run to avoid the traffic on the A38. This used to be a quiet village with little traffic, now we have cars, especially airport taxi's, careering through the lanes at ridiculous speeds. There are now little lanes around my house that I do not feel safe going for walk on as the danger posed by cars avoiding the traffic to get to the airport is truly frightening. Several of my neighbours have had cats killed on the lanes and we do not feel safe letting our cats outside due to this increase in traffic outside our house.

The taxi drivers from the airport are a menace to this village, they park in the lanes and layby's all day and night and several of my neighbours have had problems with taxi drivers defecating in their driveways, presumably because they do not have access to facilities at the airport. The issue with airport parkers has also become a serious problem for us over the last few years. Pre-covid our village was overrun with people parking their cars along the lanes, often blocking access for residents. Our ability to access our drive was hampered on lots of occasions with people parking opposite on the narrow lane. This is also a serious accident risk, with the cars driving far too fast through the village around the blind corner and I have seen many near misses with the parked cars. The parking situation has, quite understandably, caused severe animosity from the people living here and has led to parked cars being vandalised. Whilst I do not condone this, it is a measure of how much anger and frustration this situation is causing. A car parked next to mine and my partners cars, outside our property was damaged by someone unknown. A few weeks later, after the car had been removed by the owner, mine and my partners car windscreens were smashed. We assume this was retribution from whomever had their car damaged as we have been parking our cars there for many years. We cannot have guests to the house without giving them a sign to put up in their car stating that they are not airport parkers.