

WRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
The John Locke Room, Silver Street, Wrington BS40 5QE
Tel 01934 863984
Email: clerk_wrington@hotmail.com

11 February, 2019

Development Management
North Somerset Council
Town Hall
Walliscote Grove Road
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 1UJ

Dear Sirs,

APPLICATION 18/P/5118/OUT - BRISTOL AIRPORT, NORTH SIDE ROAD, FELTON, WRINGTON BS48 3DP

This response is to be treated as supplementary to the response already submitted by this Council setting out the bases for objections to the above-numbered Planning Application and also as further grounds for objecting to the plans submitted by Bristol Airport.

Noise and Light Pollution and Associated Nuisance

It has come to the Council's attention from local residents that there have been several instances where alarms fitted to vehicles which have been parked in the Multi-Storey Car Park (MSCP) to the north of the Terminal Building, have been the cause of noise nuisance. It has not been uncommon for the alarms to have been triggered at night time and to have been continuing for several hours without respite. Within the confines of the MSCP, the shrill alarm noise is magnified and echoed and has resulted in sleep deprivation and noise nuisance.

Despite residents claiming to have made complaints to the airport, it would appear that the complaints have not been addressed and as a result, no remedial action has been taken to protect affected residents from this noise nuisance. As the site is not on the public highway, redress via the noise constituting a 'Statutory Nuisance' is apparently unavailable to complainants.

The airport now plans to increase the number of storeys on the existing MSCP and to build a further facility close by, and yet there appears to have been no consideration given to addressing this on-going noise nuisance which, with greater capacity, will only become more prevalent. Does the airport have any measures in place to deal with this nuisance both in the existing MSCP and on the surface parking area to the north of the terminal and how will such measures (if they exist) be executed?

It is also planned to incorporate a 'transport hub' on the roof of one of the buildings. However there appears to have been no consideration given to preventing noise nuisance from the hub and MSCP traffic arriving/departing throughout the day and night from more invasively affecting residents' quality of life, when both MSCPs are in use, or even when the first MSCP is enlarged. The use of the roof area as a 'transport hub' will also have a potentially damaging impact upon similar residents from (a) traffic noise generated throughout the day and night and (b) light pollution from vehicles moving and turning on that site, not to mention lighting of the 'transport hub' itself during winter and night time hours.

No plans have been proposed in the above numbered Application to either eliminate or mitigate adequately the increased damage to residents' quality of life and well-being, and until satisfactory measures have been agreed with North Somerset Council and put in place, then any such plans must not be approved or begun.

Effects on Health from Pollutants

This Council would draw North Somerset Council's attention to the following information, taken, with acknowledgements, from the BBC's website and relating particularly to Bristol;-

"In the UK, more children suffer from respiratory conditions than anywhere else in Europe.

The UN agency Unicef is calling it a "public health emergency," and in a new report claims that around one in three British children live in areas with unsafe levels of pollution. As Ella walks her children to school through Bristol city centre, she shares her concerns about how air pollution is affecting her family."

*Produced for the BBC News at Six and **BBC News at Ten** by Rachel Price.*

Environment correspondent: Claire Marshall

05 Feb 2019

Climate Change

Tessa Munt, Liberal Democrat Councillor and former MP for Wells, will be placing a motion before Somerset County Council's Meeting on 20 February 2019, seeking the Council declares a 'Climate Emergency' in view of the current levels of pollutants and greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (see www.tessamunt.co.uk/climate_emergency) in which she is quoted as saying that;

"Scientists have been warning us for decades that Climate Change is the greatest threat to humanity for thousands of years. The IPCC Report said that holding the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees will require "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society". Yet nothing seems to be happening, it's business as usual locally and nationally."

The City of Bristol has already declared a climate emergency, despite its mayor supporting the proposed expansion of Bristol Airport on economic grounds. Is it not therefore time for North Somerset Council to declare a similar climate emergency and call a halt to airport expansion until such time as levels of pollutants from aircraft movements are properly monitored and addressed? Current carbon dioxide emission levels at 8.4mppa are ¾million tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum and are projected to rise to 1.2million tonnes, even allowing for 'cleaner' aircraft being introduced. This is unsustainable by any definition.

It is understood that a similar motion is now to be set before North Somerset Council at its next Council Meeting in March 2019, which reflects increasing public concern about greenhouse gas emissions and adds further weight to the argument against condoning increasing climate changing emissions by approving this application.

Airport Expansion versus Economic Boost

In his book 'Economics of Airport Expansion' published by Delft in March 2013, the well-respected author, Jasper Faber states;-

"Over the years, proponents of [airport] expansion have often claimed there to be economic benefits. However, their claims were generally not based on sound economic methods or reliable data. This report proposes social cost benefit analysis as the best methodology to evaluate the economic impacts of airport expansion. It also notes the limitations, which include the fact that impacts on biodiversity and landscape cannot be monetised.

In the current debate about expansion of airport capacity, the concept of connectivity has a prominent position. Some reports claim that the UK would boost its economy by increasing the number of destinations from its airports. Our report shows that this claim is neither based on evidence in the academic literature nor on proper comparative analysis of trade data. The only proof of economic impacts of aviation is that an increase in aviation activity in a region is followed by an increase in economic activity. Whether this is true causation, an agglomeration effect or whether both are caused by a third factor has yet to be proven."

The Report, the subject of this publication totally undermines BAL's methodology supporting its claims for increased economic growth resulting from the proposed expansion and it is therefore of critical importance that North Somerset Council weighs BAL's claims against the contents of this Report prior to permitting the developments sought.

Yours faithfully

(via email)

Fiona Burke

Clerk

On behalf of Wrington Parish Council