

John Sweeney – July 2021

While I fully appreciate the green agenda, and the concerns around carbon created by flights, I still feel the expansion plans would be beneficial for the below reasons:-

- The jobs created are a great opportunity in a time where Covid has taken so many peoples employment away. With 710 direct jobs being created with the expansion, and a further estimated 5000 indirect supply chain roles, this would be a massive boost to the local economy and community.
- In 2019 an estimated 7.8m people drove to London, to fly from either Heathrow or Gatwick. This in itself is an environmental concern.
- The airport is working tirelessly to go fully green, by changing the vehicles on site to all electric. This includes the buses and tugs. As well as adding solar panels where possible to harness the green energy available.
- The airport cannot change the aircraft emissions, only what is within their capability. However, aircraft producers are actively working to create carbon neutral flight by 2030, with Airbus, as an example, confident that it will have a hydrogen powered commercial aircraft flying by the middle of the decade.

So, in summary, once we have carbon neutral aircraft, and a green sustainable airport, why would we encourage passengers to travel up the M4, possibly in congestion causing unnecessary pollution, when we can have it on our doorstep? Creating thousands of jobs in the process.