

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Joanna Vincent](#)
Subject: my submission today to the Airport Inquiry
Date: 16 September 2021 11:56:25

From: Alastair Sawday [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 12:12 pm
To: Alastair Sawday
Subject: Airport

My name is ALASTAIR Sawday. I'm the founder of aLASTAIR Sawday publishing. We have been in Bristol for nearly 30 years and employ about 150 people. For nearly 10 years before that I run a walking and cycling travel company.

So I have been a member of the Bristol business community for nearly 40 years.

I also briefly lead the bid for Bristol to become the European Green Capital City, which Bristol won. Perhaps the applicants for this permission are unaware of this bit of local history?

Our company has always paid Close attention to our environmental impact . We promote local economies, cultural exchange, and the minimal use of aircraft. We have not always been successful.

Never in 40 years have I heard a single voice raised to suggest that expanding Bristol Airport would be in any way beneficial. Not one single voice.except for that of one man, the MD of Bristol Airport.

He gave a presentation at business West during which he impressively revealed his ambition for more flights, more cars, more facilities and more profit.

I asked a question about carbon emissions. it was received coldly by the chair who closed me down and refused to follow through. There was a palpable hostility to me in the room.

Since then there has been considerable change and business has moved on. I will illustrate with another story. About 15 years ago I attended a presentation by a developer and the council on the advantages which would flow to the business community from a massive green field development to the north of Bristol. I asked what provision had been made for cycling and was met with a blank stare. I turned to the audience of about 300 business people and ask how many regularly used bicycles for work. Not one hand

was raised.

Things have moved on, in some cases dramatically. There has been a rapid growth in business networks exploring change. The employee ownership association has grown from 300 businesses two or three years ago to nearly 1000 now. TheB Corp, with its gutsy American title, has grown to nearly 4000 businesses in over 70 countries. They are all bent on changing the way business thinks.

Even the travel business is changing. Cardiff University has just published a report revealing that 47% of travellers will fly less in future.

It is hard to find a representative voice for the whole business community in Bristol. I am sorry that credibility is given to views expressed by those businesses which have something to gain from airport expansion. The thousands of others, which will gain from a better environment, have no communal voice. My hunch, based on up to 40 years of contact with the business community, is that most Bristol businesses have not given it much thought but that if asked they would wonder at the wisdom of planning to fly more people out of the region and creating greater omissions in the process.

Last night one of the longest established Bristol bicycle businesses said to me: “we are struggling to see any benefit of expanding the airport“.

The western world is distinguished by its carelessness for the future. I was only yesterday offered the following Maori wisdom: he aha te Mea muni o te so.

What is the most important thing in the world? The answer is:

He tangata, he tangata. The people, the people.

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