

## Case Against Airport Expansion

### ➤ Introduction

- Tom Barratt
- Engineer working in renewable energy sector
- Began life in fossil fuelled generation but realised it was leading us to disaster
- Speaking against the expansion of the airport

### ➤ We are in a climate emergency!

- Declared North Somerset Council & Bristol CC (amongst many others)
- Effects of climate change visible all around (fires in California, floods in Germany...)

### ➤ Irresponsible to do anything irreversible

- atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub>: today 416ppm, <430ppm to stay below +1.5°C
- According to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change...
- Recent Comprehensive Assessment of Climate Science:
  - Even if the world manages to limit warming to 1.5C, some long-term impacts of warming already in train are likely to be inevitable and irreversible
  - We can stay within 1.5°C but only just – only if we cut emissions in the next decade

### ➤ Expansion of air travel incompatible with UK Net-Zero target

- UK Carbon budgets - 78% emissions reductions by 2035 - bare minimum for <1.5°C!
- Aviation not going to come up with net-zero solutions any time soon
- Airport's "net-zero" publicity is fraudulent (aim is to increase flying!)

### ➤ Cost of damage not factored into the cost of flying

- Neither airport nor passengers pay the true cost of the damage they cause
- Cost of impact ~\$3k per passenger per return transatlantic flight (academic study)
- If this was factored in, the airport's true return on investment not so exciting
- (And remember, to them, the Canadian pension scheme, it is just an investment...)

### ➤ Impact is global

- Climate change is a global phenomenon – we will suffer in UK, but others more so
- Eg Africa, Asia & low-lying islands where adaptation is impossible

### ➤ Morally indefensible to act to increase emissions

- UK is one of the biggest cumulative contributors to total level of atmospheric GHG
- Others have greater need and more right to "use up" remaining emissions budget
- And what a terrible example it would set as we approach our hosting of COP26!

### ➤ At this moment in history, it would be an unconscionable act to expand the airport

- How to tell our children that we enabled increased flying in the midst of an irreversible climate emergency??