

Lucienne Green (resident of Chew Stoke) Bristol Airport Expansion Enquiry Presentation

The fact that an expansion of Bristol Airport is even being considered is quite frankly terrifying. The planet is at a tipping point, all the warning signs are not just flickering they are burning very brightly. We have a climate crisis and the reality is that we, and that's the government, businesses and individuals all need to cut our emissions by as much as we can and as fast as we can. More airport capacity leads to higher passenger numbers and higher emissions. To pump 1000,s of extra tons of carbon into the atmosphere for financial gain is therefore utterly reckless

Carbon offsetting and aviation technological development have not and cannot keep a pace of current emissions and should not be used as a method for justifying an increase in avoidable emissions.

Claims that airport expansion will bring enormous economic benefits are flawed and exaggerated. An article published by the New Economics Foundation during September 2020 stated the following- In 2019 only 15% of UK departures were for international business purposes. Around 75% of departures were for international leisure trips, of this figure, the majority (62%) are UK residents, meaning that far more UK residents fly out for leisure than foreign residents fly in. According to the Office of National Statistics about £30 billion moves out of the economy every year due to international travel.

Claims that new airport capacity creates new job jobs are flawed as the economic value of these jobs is actually wiped out by the cost of the associated carbon emissions. That's if we assume these jobs will ever materialise.

Aviation receives tax exemptions and this acts as a subsidy for growth. As Friends of the Earth have pointed out, if this tax was collected and distributed around the country proportion to the population, councils would receive millions of pounds

So instead of investing in and supporting industries like aviation, with low job creation potential and high carbon emissions surely we should be investing in green infrastructure and green jobs.

I live in the Chew Valley and I have to say that my well-being and health are being seriously impacted by the constant appalling noise and air pollution from planes and traffic. It is also totally unacceptable that yet more green belt land will be consumed by traffic and buildings.

I will conclude by saying that it is a fact that if the airport is allowed to expand it will mean that another big nail is hammered firmly into the planet's coffin.