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The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

Please note that comments about this case need to be made within the timetable. This can be found in the notification letter sent by the local planning authority or the start date letter. Comments submitted after the deadline may be considered invalid and returned to sender.

Appeal Reference: APP/B0230/V/22/3296455

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference	APP/B0230/V/22/3296455
Application By	LONDON LUTON AIRPORT OPERATIONS LIMITED (LLAOL)
Site Address	London Luton Airport Airport Way Luton LU2 9LY Grid Ref Easting: 511908 Grid Ref Northing: 220942

SENDER DETAILS

Name	MR ANDREW FERGUSON
Address	[redacted]

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

In what capacity do you wish to make representations on this case?

- ☐ Applicant
- ☐ Agent
- ☑ Interested Party / Person
- ☐ Land Owner
- ☐ Rule 6 (6)

What kind of representation are you making?

- ☐ Final Comments
- ☐ Proof of Evidence
- ☐ Statement
- ☐ Statement of Common Ground
- ☑ Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- ☐ Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

These comments are additional to those I have submitted on the Luton Planning Portal

I object strongly to the expansion of Luton Airport for several reasons. Foremost amongst these in its personal impact on me, is noise pollution to the local environment.

Noise pollution
I have been a Luton resident for over 40 years, and since 1983 in Heath Close. In recent years the growth in flights has greatly increased. The summers of 2018 and 2019 are the first in which I have regularly suffered sleep disturbance from the take-off and landing of aircraft at night. Given this pre-existing level of disturbance, which I very much deprecate, I strongly object to the proposed dramatic further growth of flying, particularly at night, resulting in loss of sleep and consequential damage to health.

Living in South Luton, the beginning of departures at 5am and continuation of arrivals until 3am is my worst nightmare, as close to 24 hour operation as makes no difference. But it would also be harmful to the health of a wide range of communities to east, west and south. Locally 30,000 more people would be affected by noise. Noise insulation would be offered only to the worst affected areas and would not help outdoors or when windows need to be open for ventilation.

Environment and Biodiversity
I am also very concerned about the negative effect on local biodiversity and environment. Claims that the biodiveristy will be increased by the establishment of a new park replacing a destroyed Wigmore Valley Park, a County Wildlife site, are unconvincing. Wild orchids, for example, are difficult transplant successfully. The proposed huge increase in passenger numbers and traffic from associated supply industries will increase local road and rail congestion on a very inadequate transport infrastructure. This does not appear to have been sufficiently planned for.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions
I strongly object to any expansion of airports, and of Luton Airport in particular, on the grounds that it would lead to increased emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) at a critical period when it is imperative that such emissions should be urgently minimised by all countries, in order to avoid the increasingly real risk of runaway global warming. This is not a time to meet unfettered demand to obtain short or medium term economic gain. Rather, it is a time to manage demand down for the sake of the future. Flying will not become environmentally sustainable within the sort timescale that we have to avoid catastrophic climate change for future generations. The moral case against the proposed development cannot be ignored.

Lack of Resilience
This proposal lacks vision. The need for environmental mitigations, let alone the failure of those proposed to convince, indicates the proposal fails the test of the times. There are sustainable alternatives that could provide good livelihoods in Luton, economic benefits locally and nationally, and at the same time environmental goods rather than damage.

Missed Opportunities
The budget could be much better spent. The climate crisis and the need for sustainable and politically-secure energy sources create new opportunities in light engineering, an area where Luton traditionally excels. Valuable opportunities in aircraft engineering should continue to be encouraged but a more diverse mix orientated towards renewable and sustainable energy sources and storage would create a more resilient local economy.

In Summary
The fleeting economic and social advantages of increased and more rapid travel from Luton Airport or any other cannot be justified when set against the long term damage to health and environment, the severe costs of which may ultimately be counted not only in economic terms but in lives and livelihoods. The moral case against the proposed development should not be ignored.