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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 NIGEL OXLEY
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

I consider the application should be rejected or the following reasons:
Noise - The proposed expansion from 18 to 19 million passengers per year will considerably increase the number of plane movements both landing and taking off plus aircraft manoeuvring on the ground. Because of this noise levels will increase considerably making the lives of local residents even more unbearable. The current increase in flights is already having a major affect on my life. I have to put up with noise throughout the day and night, seven days a week, with no let up. The extra million planes will mean an increase in the operating times with more early morning and night flights. All these factors will have a drastic negative affect on my life.
Traffic - In Wheathampstead we already suffer from the high traffic volumes on the B653 (Lower Luton Road). If the expansion plans go ahead traffic will get much worse as this road is used as a cut through to and from Luton Airport. The frequent traffic hold ups on the M1 make things even worse. The road is too narrow to take an increase in car, van, lorries and freight traffic going to and from Luton Airport. The road also feeds the new Katherine Warrington School so there are lots of children about. The road is already an accident blackspot and we cannot take any more traffic and the risk of accidents that may involve children.
Travel – Connectivity by road to Luton Airport is very poor and there is very bad East west connectivity. The draft transport strategy you have produced is totally inadequate. A fully worked up strategy needs to be done before any expansion plans can be considered. The current train service is inadequate for a large increase in passengers and the trains are often overloaded.
Luton Airport cannot be trusted as they broke the conditions of the last planning application and breached the night time noise limits three years in a row. What will stop the same thing happening again? The previous increase in passenger numbers was meant to be phased over a number of years. This didn't happen and it was all brought forward and none of the benefits took place. Local residents are still waiting for these improvements to take place including quieter planes! The new planes that have been brought in are noisier than the previous ones when they are taking off.
With the increase in passenger numbers after the pandemic the airport is flying more and more night flights and early morning flights. They are now flying scheduled flight arrivals up to 3.00am. This is terribly damaging for the heath of local residents due to sleep deprivation.
Luton Airport has expanded too quickly and this has had the affect of additional disturbance, noise, air pollution and carbon emissions before any mitigations were in place. I find it amazing that Luton Borough council have declared a 'Climate Emergency' in the town centre but they have totally ignored the 'Elephant on their doorstep' - Thousands of planes taking off and landing at the airport they own, causing untold pollution and damage to the environment. Then they go and approve the application to expand the airport by a million passengers a year and the huge number of extra planes that goes with it!
Any complaints that I have made to the airport are totally ignored and nothing is done to rectify the matter I complained about. In some cases they have lied to me and told me untruths. The airport management staff cannot in any way be trusted.
Economics – There will be an increase in low skilled and low paid jobs at the airport as there are now and these provide very little benefit to the local economy. Instead the airport encourages passengers to fly abroad and taking away valuable jobs in the local and national service and tourist industry.
In these uncertain times it is not the right time to be expanding the airport. Home working and the public being more aware of environmental issues will almost certainly reduce the demand for air travel. It is a major risk that Luton will be left with a multi-million pound white elephant with very few passengers, whilst Luton Borough Council will continue to have a major cash crisis and a huge debt to service.
There is a clear conflict of interest with Luton Borough Council owning the airport and deciding on planning decisions. They have shown themselves to be totally irresponsible and have just looked after their own interests in all aspects. Luton Borough Council should have taken prompt action when the airport breached the planning conditions on the night noise limits but they didn't. It clearly wasn't in their interests to do this as it reduced their revenue. This situation should not be allowed to continue and they should be made to account for their actions. There are not in any way considering the terrible

affect airport is having on local residents. It was quite clear at the planning application meeting that despite to the huge number of written objections and the people who spoke at the meeting against the proposals the Councillors present were going to ignore their views. Again it showed that the Council is biased by its self interest to approve the application. This application should be rejected because there is a failure of scrutiny and enforcement by Luton Borough Council who are conflicted.