

NEWSLETTER



Number 114 28th February 2020

Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign
GACC Campaign Office
2 Glovers Gate,
Glovers Road,
Charlwood,
Surrey RH6 0EP
Telephone: 01293 862821
Website: www.gacc.org.uk

GACC welcomes Heathrow Appeal Court Decision

The Court of Appeal decision on Thursday 27th on the 3rd runway at Heathrow is likely to have significant repercussions for many infrastructure plans in the UK.

Below is a Press Release we have issued following the Court of Appeal's momentous decision.

Thank you for your continued support.
GACC.

Press Release
28th February, 2020

GACC welcomes the judgement by the Court of Appeal that the Government's Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS) was unlawful

GACC welcomes the judgement by the Court of Appeal that the Government's Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS) was unlawful because it failed to take into account the Government's commitment to the provisions of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

In addition to providing the basis for detailed planning decisions on proposals for a third runway at Heathrow, the ANPS was an important and relevant consideration in respect of applications for new runway capacity and other airport infrastructure elsewhere in London and the South East.

The Court's decision therefore raises the bar for all airport expansion decisions. It is good news for communities impacted by any UK airport that wants to expand, and for our environment more widely.

For Gatwick the Court's decision, if confirmed by the Supreme Court, has three important implications:

- Suggestions that the new runway should be built at Gatwick instead of at Heathrow, made for example by the London Mayor and by four London Boroughs, are kyboshed. The climate change damage caused by a new Gatwick runway would be the exactly the same as for one at Heathrow. Gatwick Airport's plan for a full-scale new runway, south of the existing runway, which was the basis of their massive publicity campaign from 2013 – 2016, and which is repeated in their current Master Plan, can be put in the waste bin.
- Gatwick's plans for regular use of the emergency runway north of the existing runway cannot proceed. They would result in an additional 1 million tons of CO2 emissions annually, increase noise and congestion and reduce air quality. In the light of this judgement Gatwick should withdraw its expansion proposals.
- Gatwick's proposals to increase the number of flights by around 50,000 pa, and the number of passengers by over 12.0mill pa by more intensive use of the existing runway are – like the Heathrow runway - clearly contrary to the Government's commitment to achieve net zero carbon by 2050. At present, as pointed out pessimistically by the planning officers of local Councils, there appears to be no method to prevent this expansion through the planning system. Local planning authorities should now bring forward proposals to cap Gatwick's operations and so prevent any future growth unless and until it can be clearly demonstrated to be consistent with the Paris Agreement and the UK's 2050 net zero obligations. GACC will continue to campaign vigorously to deflate Gatwick's climate-destroying ambitions.

It was significant that the Court of Appeal did not overturn the Heathrow National Policy Statement decisions regarding air quality or noise. The Court also specifically stated that it was not challenging the Government's decision that Heathrow was preferable to Gatwick as providing a superior hub airport. So there is no case to argue that a new runway at Gatwick would be a better choice.

In recent months local planning authorities have rejected plans for growth at Bristol and Stansted airports principally on environmental grounds. The Court's decision today, and the Government's acceptance of the decision, should end plans for airport expansion and runway development anywhere in the UK.

GACC congratulates our fellow campaigners for their efforts in achieving this result.

Peter Barclay
Chairman GACC & Gatwick's Big Enough coalition