



GATWICK AREA CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

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Press Release: 5 November 2021 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Demonstration at Gatwick Airport, Saturday 6 November, 11am

Protest targets 'greenwashing' of aviation and calls for halting of expansion plans

Concerned residents will stage a peaceful protest near Gatwick Airport on Saturday 6 November to protest against "greenwashing" by the aviation industry and call for a halt to Gatwick's expansion plans, as part of a global action timed to coincide with the COP26 Climate Summit.

They will meet outside the Half Moon pub, The Street, Charlwood, RH6 0DS, at 10.45am, then walk to the nearby Glebe Field to protest by the noise monitor.

Peter Barclay, Charlwood resident and chairman of the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (GACC) said: *"No one should be fooled by attempts to 'greenwash' aviation. New technologies and 'sustainable' fuels will take decades to be used on commercial flights – and it's these flights that cause the vast majority of aviation's greenhouse gas emissions. If Gatwick is allowed a second runway, its carbon emissions will increase dramatically."*

Penny Shoubridge, Charlwood resident, said: *"Carbon emissions from aviation are a climate justice issue. Four out of five of the world's people have never set foot on a plane – yet those who have done least to cause climate change are the worst affected by its impacts."*

The protest is part of a coordinated action organised by the Stay Grounded international network. Protests will be happening simultaneously at nine other UK airports: Bristol, Doncaster-Sheffield, Glasgow, Leeds-Bradford, London-City, Luton, Liverpool, Manchester and Southampton.

Notes to editors



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- Gatwick Airport is consulting on its plan to bring its emergency runway into routine use, increasing the number of flights using the airport by around 100,000 a year and increasing the carbon emissions by perhaps 40–50% by 2050. The airport claims this expansion could be "carbon neutral" by relying on technologies that do not yet exist, or exist only on a tiny scale.
- The government's advisory body the Climate Change Committee recommends no net expansion of UK airports.
- Just 1% of the world population is responsible for 50% of emissions from commercial aviation. Around 80% of the world's population have never flown.
- The [Global Day of Action for Climate Justice](#) is coordinated by the COP26 Coalition, a civil society coalition of groups and individuals mobilising around climate justice during COP26. [Stay Grounded](#) is a global network representing more than 170 member organisations, campaigning for a reduction of air traffic and a climate-just mobility system.

ENDS

For further information, photos or interviews

Contact Peter Barclay on 01293 868821 or email info@gacc.org.uk

GACC's aims are to protect and improve the environment in the vicinity of Gatwick Airport and to diminish any wider environmental impact of its operations, with particular regard to noise, congestion, air quality, light pollution and climate change.