

NEWSLETTER



Number 112 February 2020

Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign
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Gatwick's Big Enough campaign update

In August 2019 GACC established the Gatwick's Big Enough campaign to oppose the expansion plans set out in Gatwick's master plan. GACC is leading the campaign working alongside community groups from around the airport.

Gatwick's Big Enough has recently written to the Secretary of State asking him to ensure that all the growth proposed by the airport in its masterplan is subject to thorough scrutiny, proper stakeholder consultation and the grant of formal planning consent.

Our letter, which is attached, makes the following main points:

1. 60% of the growth proposed by Gatwick would be achieved by making more use of the airport's existing main runway. That growth is not currently within the scope of the Development Consent Order the airport has initiated in relation to the proposed routine use of its emergency runway, or any other planning process.
2. It cannot be right that the UK's second largest airport should be able to grow by over 15m passengers per annum, or 33%, without proper scrutiny, consultation and consent. Expansion of any other major UK airport on this scale would require full scrutiny and consent.
3. Growth on the scale proposed would have profound consequences for people living near the airport and under flight paths, for local infrastructure usage, and for the environment. It would increase carbon emissions facilitated by the airport very substantially at a time when the Committee on Climate Change is advising that they should be reduced. It would increase noise impacts across large parts of Surrey, Sussex and Kent. It would increase infrastructure congestion and reduce air quality. And it would impact the value of local properties.
4. Government policy is very clear that any significant growth at airports must be scrutinised and approved. But there is no process through which that can take place at Gatwick as far as main runway growth is concerned. The current lack of scrutiny is therefore a clear breach of government policy and we propose and request that the Secretary of State takes steps to ensure that all Gatwick's proposed growth, and the associated impacts, are thoroughly scrutinised and consented or rejected.

We would welcome GACC members writing to the Secretary of State and their local MPs in support of our letter.

The email address for the Secretary of State is grant.shapps@dft.gov.uk and his postal address is The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport, Department for Transport, Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR.

If you would like more information on the Gatwick's Big Enough campaign or to participate please contact us on info@gatwicksbigenough.org.

GACC Annual General Meeting

As a further reminder, GACC's annual general meeting, which commenced on 15 November 2019 but was adjourned due to the repeated raising of points of procedure will now be held on 19 February 2020 at Crown Plaza Felbridge, London Road, Felbridge, East Grinstead RH19 2 BH. The meeting will commence at 7:30 pm with doors open from 7:00 pm.

The following arrangements for the AGM have been agreed by GACC's committee:

1. Nominations for election to GACC's Committee must have been submitted to info@gacc.org.uk before 11.00pm on 12 February, 2020. Nominations at the AGM itself will not be accepted.
2. Confirmed nominations will be printed on the agenda for the AGM together with the town or village where the candidate lives so that the AGM can make an informed choice of candidates. The agenda will be circulated to all paid-up members by email at least 48 hours before the resumed AGM.
3. Voting at the resumed AGM will be by a poll. In the poll corporate members will have 11 votes and individual members will have 1 vote, as set out in GACC's constitution. Ballot papers will be issued on arrival.
4. Corporate members may nominate a person to attend and vote on their behalf. The person so appointed should come to the AGM with appropriate authorisation. Proxy votes for individual members are not contemplated by GACC's constitution and will not be permitted.
5. In order to allow membership and entitlement to vote to be verified no applications for membership will be processed in the two weeks before the AGM. The cut off date for membership registration was 5 February and anyone applying to join after that date will not be eligible to vote at this AGM. Applications for membership will only be valid if made on the standard GACC membership form, available on GACC's website, and in the manner set out in the website.
6. As is the tradition at GACC AGMs, members of the public are welcome to attend but may not vote and may not speak without permission from the chairman.