

STOP STANSTED EXPANSION UPDATE

The fight goes on



Photo: David Townend

“ Stansted is the very last place that should be developed – the very, very last. Decisions are being taken now which will radically affect future generations. There will be no going back. There will be no restoring these communities. Our heritage will be gone forever. ”

TERRY WAITE CBE

Think expansion at Stansted is a done deal? Think again!

Many people think that airport expansion at Stansted is a done deal. That the Government has already made up its mind.

If you're one of them, think again: despite what the aviation industry would like us to believe, no decision has yet been taken.

There is still everything to play for and we must keep up the pressure with the same energy and strength of opposition that have resulted in our campaign having such an impact to date, showing the Government that, never mind the three extra runways which it has proposed for Stansted, we won't accept any.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO ACT

You may have already written letters opposing the plans for

Stansted but now, more than ever, we need to drive that message home.

The Government has already received far more letters of opposition from the public to its airport expansion proposals than to any previous public consultation in history. When these responses have been digested, the Government will decide what to do and will publish its decisions in a White Paper - expected in December.

Final decisions will be taken by Ministers at Cabinet level in Government and it is known that the force of public opposition has led to major differences of opinion between Whitehall departments and amongst Ministers. It is understood that the Department for Transport has already been forced to retreat considerably from its original proposals - and the debate still has some way to run.

Now is the time to keep up the pressure!

OUR OBJECTIVE? KEEP STANSTED OUT OF THE WHITE PAPER

It could make all the difference to the outcome if we continue to register our opposition by writing to our MPs to reiterate our concerns – never mind how many letters have already been sent.

This is a very valuable course of action since the size and shape of MP and Ministerial postbags will really influence the outcome of the Air Transport White Paper which will set out Government policy and intentions for the future.

Your letter could be the one that tips the balance – even if you've written before. See back page for more details of where to write and to whom.

What would expansion mean?

● MUCH MORE NOISE:

Over 70 beautiful rural villages and market towns which characterise the Herts and Essex borders, parts of Suffolk and South Cambridge would be severely affected by gridlocked roads and a sky full of noisy planes stacking, landing and taking off, not only in the day but increasingly at night.

● HERITAGE LOSS:

Hundreds of homes would disappear including scores of listed buildings including many thatched cottages and sites of historic interest.

● ENVIRONMENTAL DEVASTATION:

Ancient lanes and woodland including Elsenham Wood (a site of special scientific interest) would be concreted over, while the last remaining medieval hunting ground in Europe – Hatfield Forest – would be badly degraded. BAA's proposals for even one extra runway, meanwhile, would involve further land-

take for a new rail link from Elsenham through the airport terminal, crossing Takeley Street, running beside Hatfield Forest then between Hatfield Broad Oak and Hatfield Heath, through Sheering to the main line at Harlow Mill.

● INCREASED AIR POLLUTION:

The health of children and the elderly would be particularly compromised by increased pollution levels from both planes and, more especially, the tens of thousands of extra cars that would come to the airport each day. Road traffic and aircraft are also major contributors to global warming – a key issue for future generations.

● MAJOR URBANISATION:

Rapidly vanishing countryside would be eaten up for new office, warehousing and other industry serving the airport, not to mention houses for up to 80,000 extra airport workers and their families.

Even one extra runway is one too many

The Government has put forward plans for a possible three extra runways at Stansted. The reality, however, is that even one more runway would devastate this region's character and result in such major urbanisation that it would become unrecognisable.

Many people, of course, believe that three runways were proposed so that we would be less shocked if just one were actually recommended.

This is why it is so important to fight just as strongly against one more runway as against three. After all, the urbanisation, gridlocked roads, health, quality of life and heritage and environmental impacts of

transforming Stansted into an airport the equivalent size and potentially even bigger than Heathrow today would give rise to major implications for this area.

WHAT DIFFERENCE HAVE WE ALREADY MADE ?

Stop Stansted Expansion has staged an extremely effective media, lobbying and grassroots campaign to date, acknowledged by many to have been a powerful element in moving thinking away from the inevitability of extra runways and the destruction of the homes, heritage and lives of so many people across south east England simply in the pursuit of

the profitability of the aviation industry.

By gaining valuable extra time for the consultation following our successful legal action at the High Court last November, we have enabled the voices of many powerful allies to be heard by the Government. The House of Commons Transport Committee, for example, has recommended the break up of the BAA monopoly. The Environmental Audit Committee, meanwhile, has made strong recommendations that the aviation industry actually pays for the environmental damage that it causes.

Other powerful voices in the debate, including the Royal Commission on Environmental



“ An offshore airport must be seriously considered, something really cutting edge, where aircraft take off and land on runways out at sea, so that aircraft noise and pollution is kept well away from inhabited and environmentally sensitive areas.”

JAMIE OLIVER MBE



What the Government is proposing

- Adding one, two or even three extra runways to the existing one.
- Increasing capacity from around the current 18 million passengers a year to up to 129 million – or 140 million a year according to BAA's response to the proposals.
- Up to five times the current number of flights, using larger aircraft than ever.
- The transfer of 40% of Heathrow's transatlantic and long haul schedules to Stansted.
- Making Stansted the UK's number one freight airport (much freight is moved at night).

Pollution, Sustainable Development Commission and even the Government's favourite think-tank, the Institute for Public Policy Research, have all voiced their concerns about the extreme damage that will be done if further runways are constructed in

the South East.

East Herts District Council and Essex and Herts County Councils have teamed up to fight the proposals for even one extra runway. Meanwhile, Uttlesford District Council, the planning authority for the airport, has

made clear the overwhelming local opposition to expansion through a vociferous campaign reflecting the 89% of electors who voted 'no' to extra runways in a referendum attracting a bigger turn out (69%) than the last general election.

If we have to gain yet more time by pursuing legal challenges if Stansted does appear in the White Paper, we will not shrink from this course of action which has demonstrated its value over the last year.

WHO BACKS STOP STANSTED EXPANSION?

- 5500 individual members and online supporters
- 60 parish and local councils and other community groups
- Friends of the Earth, National Trust, Woodland Trust, Ramblers Association, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
- every local MP and MEP supports our campaign objectives.



Practical steps you can take now

Norman Mead,
Chairman,
Stop Stansted
Expansion



impacts of expansion. Use the points in this leaflet or, for more details on letter writing including sample letters on more than a dozen topics, contact us on 01279 870558 or see website www.stopstanstedexpansion.com.

BECOME A MEMBER

Subscribe using the form below to join as a full member or online supporter (or register online at www.stopstanstedexpansion.com) to ensure you receive regular updates and add weight to our voice.

DONATE OR RAISE FUNDS

Every penny counts: why not make a donation – large or small – to the campaign or make a pledge to support us if we need to mount a further legal challenge. Or organise a fundraising event – anything from a coffee morning, quiz or race night to a sponsored event, auction or round robin dinner. Get in touch for more ideas.

GET INVOLVED

Contact the campaign office and ask for one of our volunteer

coordinators if you'd like to become more actively involved with our activities

Use the form below to join the campaign as a member to receive regular progress reports and details of special activities – and/or sign up someone else as a member. Adding another voice to our membership sends a powerful signal to Government about the growing opposition to more runways at Stansted.

Telephone: 01279 870558
info@stopstanstedexpansion.com
www.stopstanstedexpansion.com

Your action now can make a difference to the future. Please, take one or more of the steps outlined below to help our campaign so that we have the best possible chance of success in preserving the character of this region for future generations to enjoy.

WRITE TO YOUR MP

Write to your MP c/o House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA (check his name if necessary by phoning 020 7219 4272) to ask him to raise your concerns with relevant Ministers about the



YES I SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST FURTHER RUNWAYS AT STANSTED AND WANT TO JOIN STOP STANSTED EXPANSION

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

- I wish to become a Full Member* (£10 minimum annual subscription) and receive regular campaign updates by post. Full Members are automatically joined to Stop Stansted Expansion's parent body, the North West Essex and East Herts Preservation Association
- I wish to become an Online Supporter (no fee) to receive email updates
- I wish to make a donation to campaign costs and enclose the sum of £ _____
- I would like to make a pledge to the campaign if further legal action is needed when the White Paper appears for the sum of £ _____

Cheques should be made payable to 'Stop Stansted Expansion'

RETURN TO:
Stop Stansted Expansion
PO Box 311 Takeley
Bishop's Stortford
Herts CM22 6PY

