



Slinfold Parish Council

PO Box 315, Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 9XX
Tel: 01403 785864 (Mobile 07733 359479)
Email: clerk@slinfold-pc.gov.uk

RT Hon Theresa May MP
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 0AA

12th August 2016

Email copies to: mayt@parliament.uk and email.number10.gov.uk

Dear Madam,

SLINFOLD PARISH COUNCIL SAYS NO TO 2ND RUNWAY AT GATWICK

Slinfold Parish Council represents approximately 800 households and 2,100 residents. The parish is located 5 miles WSW of Horsham in West Sussex and is on the current flightpath for the BOGNA/HARDY NPR swathe.

The parish is rural in character and has a high recreational and environmental amenity value enjoyed by residents as well as many visitors.

Slinfold is a rural area where the noise environment has been seriously worsened by the recent flightpath changes with a 300% increase in overflight since the introduction of PRNAV just over a year ago.

As a consequence, our residents have moved from living in a tranquil environment to a noisy one with deleterious impact on their quality of life ranging from sleep deprivation to reduced property values.

Recognising the numerous complaints from residents, Slinfold Parish Council voted, at its meeting of 27th November 2014, to reject any proposal from the Airports Commission for a second runway at Gatwick Airport.

In coming to this determination the PC referred back to its previous submissions to both Gatwick Airport Limited (GAL) and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) protesting at the fivefold increase in flight activity over the village in the last three years.

The PC has already received several submissions relating to real personal distress and believes that the increased noise pollution is clearly harmful to residents and inappropriate in a formerly peaceful rural environment. The absence of any mitigating measures is of particular concern therefore.

Of greater concern to us though is the Local Development Plan, approved by Horsham DC, which envisages building nearly a 1,000 new homes in our area (out of a total of 15,000 for the District as a whole) hence increasing the pressure on our local infrastructure and services.

Since the Council voted to reject the Second Runway Option these infrastructure pressures have already worsened. Many of our residents regularly encounter 'standing room only' on the over loaded London to Brighton Mainline which serves the Airport.

If Gatwick is allowed to expand, the number of passengers on this line will treble!

Gatwick Airports are not contributing a penny to improve the Mainline hence leaving the additional burden, amounting to £2.0bn to fall on either the taxpayer or our long suffering commuters.

The PC therefore concludes that there will be little economic benefit to the local community and certainly insufficient to offset the inconvenience and distress our residents will face. The only economic certainty would appear to be a reduction in local property values without any offsetting compensation.

It is also noted that that major international airlines such as British Airways and EasyJet have come out in favour of the Heathrow option for expansion for sound logistical reasons, and Slinfold PC concurs with their conclusion.

Consequently, we urge you to support our Parish's decision by also rejecting the Gatwick 2nd Runway option.

Yours sincerely



Mary Burroughs

PARISH CLERK on behalf of Slinfold Parish Council

cc:

Jeremy Quin MP

DfT

West Sussex County Council - Louise Goldsmith (Leader) and Pieter Montyn (Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport)

Horsham District Council Ray Dawe (Leader) and Tom Crowley (Chief Executive)

Horsham District Council Members (via Committee Services)

Liz Kitchen (County Councillor)

Patricia Youtan and Stuart Ritchie (District Councillors)

GATCOM Secretary

Slinfold Parish Councillors

Andrew Haines (Chief Executive) Civil Aviation Authority

Sally Pavey (CAGNE) and Peter Drummond (APCAG)