



23rd August, 2018

Expansion of Luton Airport

Dear Sir/ Madam,

St Albans Civic Society is opposed to the expansion of Luton Airport for the following reasons:

1. **increase in noise pollution from additional aircraft over-flying St Albans.** In March of this year the BBC (17/03/2018) reported a record number of complaints about aircraft noise flying to and from Luton Airport. The complaints came from all areas adjacent to the airport including St Albans. In January the Herts Advertiser (18/01/2018) reported on a growing level of pollution in St Albans and the severe threat it posed to public health. These are very serious concerns for the residents of St Albans.
2. **additional pressure on the Midland mainline and Thameslink services vital to St Albans commuter needs.** In July The Guardian (24/07/2018) revealed that Thameslink was one of the most overcrowded lines in the UK. Increased passenger numbers for Luton Airport will exacerbate an already failing system.
3. **additional traffic generation leading to increased congestion at M1 junctions and pinchpoints .** Early this year ITV (06/02/2018) reported that, *Luton is one of the worst places in the country when it comes to traffic jams, according to new study... Only London, Manchester and Birmingham fared worse than Luton which was named the fourth most congested place in the country.* Increased traffic to the airport will only worsen the situation.
4. **unnecessary increase in capacity considering cumulative over-expansion of airports in South East (Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and London City all planning to expand too);** The MP for Harpenden Bim Afolami, at a debate in Parliament (09/01/2018), and the Leader of St Albans District Council, Alec Campbell, have both questioned the need to expand Luton Airport: *the need for airport expansion, given that all 5 airports in the south east are proposing very significant capacity increases that is well above the predicted growth in air transport. Given the local impact, there may be better places for expansion that affect fewer people* (12/08/2018).

In the face of the negative impact, and diminution of the quality of life, the case against an expansion of Luton Airport is overwhelming for the citizens of St Albans.

Yours faithfully,

Tim Boatswain

Professor Tim Boatswain
Chairman