

STOP STANSTED EXPANSION UPDATE

The battle begins

Imagine Stansted Airport being bigger than Heathrow and the effect this would have on Bishop's Stortford, Saffron Walden, Dunmow and Sawbridgeworth in the immediate airport vicinity, as well as further afield at Harlow, Epping, Braintree, Hertford, Ware Haverhill, Sudbury, Chelmsford, Hoddesdon...

- five times the number of aircraft landing and taking off
- up to 65,000 airport-related staff travelling to and from work each day
- 80 million passengers travelling to and from the airport each year by road and rail
- nearly 50,000 extra houses in at least eight local towns and villages
- thousands of acres of local countryside concreted over to make way for the larger airport site and for the new road and rail links, warehouses, office blocks, hotels, distribution centres and other airport-related facilities including car parking
- destruction and blight of homes, centuries-old listed buildings, protected ancient woodlands, scheduled ancient



Expansion impacts will be felt over a broad area of the region

monuments and thousands of acres of unspoilt countryside.

We can stop this... with the help and support of the entire community. Please read this leaflet and find out how you can help prevent BAA from building a second runway at Stansted.

The phoney war is over

The government may have ignored the weight of evidence against expansion at Stansted Airport with the publication of the Air Transport White Paper, but the reality is that an extra runway at Stansted will never see the light of day provided we effectively challenge the proposals at every turn. If we roll over at this point, BAA will get its second runway, but with vigorous, sustained and committed opposition, BAA's plans will be defeated.

Even Transport Secretary Alistair Darling has made it plain that the White Paper is by no means the authorisation for expansion

beyond 25m passengers per annum or a second runway. Various hurdles would have to be overcome first – some very tough indeed – before permission could ever be given. In addition, the government has given an undertaking that it will not promote the expansion of Stansted airport.

Now that the phoney war is over, the real battle has begun in earnest. Stop Stansted Expansion will, with the support of the wider community, spearhead a relentless

campaign to defeat BAA's wholly unacceptable expansion plans for Stansted once and for all.

The battle to protect this area will be fought on a number of fronts including an intense campaign of political, legal and media activity. We will also target BAA shareholders and financiers and recruit every ally we can. This intense campaign will continue until such time as we have forced BAA to abandon any idea of a second Stansted runway.

For more detailed information on the White Paper and the threat we face, see www.stopstanstedexpansion.com

A powerful opposition which will win through

Today, BAA knows very well that it faces enormous legal, regulatory, planning, environmental and economic obstacles to expansion. It also knows that if the community mounts a vigorous campaign of opposition, the chances of a second runway ever being built at Stansted Airport are remote – whatever it claims publicly. BAA is also aware that it has a real fight on its hands from very powerful opponents within the aviation industry itself.

The major airlines and low cost carriers for example, have already voiced their opposition to either using or paying for an extra runway at Stansted and some, including British Airways, have announced their readiness to challenge it through the courts.

Add to this the tremendous opposition at every level within this community, across the region and nationally and the opportunity to defeat expansion proposals becomes stronger than ever.

The organisations entrusted to defend our community, environment and heritage as well as the people who live here have all made it clear that they remain

totally opposed to the idea of a second Stansted runway.

- 60+ parish, district, town and county councils and the East of England Regional Assembly, plus every local MEP and backbench MP
- The National Trust, CPRE, RSPB, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Friends of the Earth, Ramblers Association, Woodland Trust
- 34,000 people who voted 'NO' to any extra runways in a local referendum organised by Uttlesford District Council (89 percent of those who voted, in a turnout bigger than the general election)
- 35,000 signatures against the expansion of Stansted on the Herts & Essex Observer petition
- 5500 Stop Stansted Expansion supporters including Jamie Oliver and Terry Waite

URBANISATION ACROSS THE REGION

Expanding Stansted with an extra runway would mean one third more passengers than at Heathrow Airport today. As well as taking its



toll on the environment such a massive airport would inevitably have a major effect on the region. Imagine if you can up to five times as many passengers travelling on the region's roads and railways than at present and you begin to get the picture.

The road and rail upgrades that would be needed would be immense, destroying countryside, homes and villages. For example, a major link route would affect life in **Henham, Elsenham, Broxton, Great Easton and Little Easton** as well as **Great Dunmow**.

CHANGING THE CHARACTER OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

Considerable heritage and land would be lost to an expanded airport site, notably around 100 homes, 30 listed buildings, two scheduled ancient monuments and 1000 acres of Countryside Protection Zone.

Further afield, 44,000 people across the region would be affected by noise from the airport (based on the criteria recommended by the World Health Organisation) – three times the number predicted by the government. The impact of noise in a rural environment, of course, makes itself felt much more strongly than against an urban backdrop, so will be far more noticeable across great swathes of Hertfordshire, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk.

The implications for children's education and community health – particularly the elderly and chronically sick – as a result of noise and air pollution cannot be ignored either: even the White Paper recognises the difficulties faced by schools near airports which never have any respite from noise. Children's education suffers

No commercial case for expansion

"The charges needed to remunerate the investment would need to be shared across users of the London system as a whole." – BAA

FACT: BAA can't afford to finance a second Stansted runway without cross subsidy from Heathrow and Gatwick, something which the Civil Aviation Authority won't allow.

"A runway at Stansted would not get built. Nobody wants it. Nobody would pay for it. The tarmac wouldn't even get laid." – British Airways

FACT: the major airlines don't want to come to Stansted.

"We strongly oppose any rise in costs." – Ryanair

FACT: the budget airlines are not prepared to pay for expansion at Stansted.



Which local towns and villages could be expanded?

A recent report for the East of England Regional Assembly and other local authorities and agencies responsible for regional planning guidance set out a strategy for future housing development within a 30 minute 'drive time' from Stansted Airport.

'A Study of the Possible Urbanisation Implications of the Potential Expansion Options for Stansted' makes frightening reading, proposing amongst other measures, the following to accommodate the addition of one extra runway serving 80m passengers per year:

- HARLOW: 14,600 new houses**
- STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET: 4,300 new houses**
- BIRCHANGER: 3,000 new houses**
- GREAT DUNMOW: 5,800 new houses**
- FELSTED: a new town with approximately 7,000 new houses**
- ELSENHAM/HENHAM: a new town with approximately 7,000 new houses**

PLUS – thousands more houses for Bishop's Stortford and Braintree.

PLUS – a new town in the Hadhams if expansion went beyond one runway.

as a result of poor concentration caused by broken sleep and from the constant interruptions to lessons caused by planes known as 'jet pause'.

HOUSING 56,000 NEW AIRPORT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The gradual disappearance of countryside and the rural environment on a much broader scale within a large catchment around the airport, meanwhile, is also of great concern. Land would be rapidly eaten up by housing developments as well as to provide

the warehousing, hotels, car parks and other services that an expanded airport would attract.

The government predicts, for example, that up to 56,000 extra workers would be needed for the airport and related services – most of whom would be brought to live in the area, together with their families, because of the very low rate of local unemployment.

New roads and development would radically transform the character of the region

WHY NOT JUST ACCEPT A SECOND RUNWAY – SURELY THIS IS BETTER THAN THREE EXTRA RUNWAYS AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED?

The White Paper does not specifically rule out a third or fourth runway for the future and experience tells us that BAA always wants 'more', regardless of past assurances. The proposed second runway would be 2.5km to the east of the existing runway suggesting an intention to add more runways in the longer term – making Stansted not only the UK's largest airport but the world's largest.

The key battle to prevent this is here and now. Unless we stop the second runway we will be on a slippery slope to a third and then a fourth.

The White Paper

This White Paper sets out a framework for a move towards:

- full use of existing runway capacity at Stansted
- an extra runway to the east of the existing runway

However, whatever this policy document says, we all know that governments are quite used to doing U-turns. This may be because a legal ruling forces a change of view, as a consequence of a decision at European level or because of the outcome of a public inquiry. Sheer weight of opposition or realisation that a plan is simply undeliverable can also reverse policy.

Dear neighbour..



The inspector at the last public inquiry into the expansion of Stansted Airport concluded that a second runway would be “an environmental disaster on an unprecedented scale.” These words are just as true today as they were then – but the government has ignored them and given BAA an amber light to bring forward plans for a second runway.

Stop Stansted Expansion is committed to fighting these plans with the objective of defeating the idea of a second runway once and for all – and doing so as quickly and decisively as possible. The support we have received since the announcement of the White Paper has been overwhelming. Coming from far and wide too – not just the immediate vicinity of the airport.

More and more people in Essex, Herts, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire are beginning to realise the sheer scale of what is being proposed for Stansted. We face nothing less than the threat of having the world’s biggest airport being developed right in the centre of our communities. It is not surprising that people are angry that the government has not killed off this proposal. And it is not surprising that there is such strong determination in the community that this must never be allowed to happen.

The campaign to prevent the desecration of this part of England will now proceed with renewed vigour.

The battle ahead will be a test of our resolve and determination. We can expect BAA to use every trick in the book to try to divide the local community and break our resolve. We must be prepared for this and show resilience, knowing that we have many powerful arguments to counter BAA in the courts and elsewhere – and powerful allies of our own. We are confident that we will ultimately win this battle. We will settle for nothing less – no matter how long it takes. When we succeed it will be a victory for the entire community and it will be a victory for common sense.



“Our Community, Our Responsibility”

Stop Stansted Expansion

Telephone 01279 870558

Norman Mead, Chairman, Stop Stansted Expansion

info@stopstanstedexpansion.com, www.stopstanstedexpansion.com

YES I WANT TO HELP DEFEAT PLANS FOR EXPANDING STANSTED AIRPORT

I WANT TO JOIN THE CAMPAIGN and enclose a cheque for £10 (minimum annual subscription). Full members automatically belong to the North West Essex and East Herts Preservation Association, SSE’s parent body

I WANT TO MAKE A DONATION and enclose a cheque for £ _____ to the campaign

I WANT TO VOLUNTEER MY SERVICES/CONTACTS/KNOWLEDGE by offering to:

I WANT TO SET UP A FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY/EVENT for the campaign as follows:

(Please contact me to discuss)

PLEASE SIGN ME UP FOR EMAIL NEWS (you can also do this online via our website www.stopstanstedexpansion.com)

Please make cheques payable to ‘Stop Stansted Expansion’

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

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

