



Heathrow Villages Ward Councillor

London Borough of Hillingdon
Labour Group Offices
Civic Centre, Uxbridge UB8 1UW

To Sir Howard Davies, Airports Commission

Please note my objection to further expansion at Heathrow. **I strongly believe that there should be no additional runways or increases in runway capacity at Heathrow Airport, now or in the future.**

I am a representative of Heathrow Villages and I can also fully claim to understand their concerns about a third runway because I myself live in the area and have done my whole life, as has my family.

Please let me explain that all the villages surrounding Heathrow Airport are home to whole communities who have lived and raised their children in the area, who have friends in the area, connections to the schools and community centres that have sprouted up over the years to serve as focal points for the community.

Anyone who has followed debate on Heathrow and particularly Heathrow Airport LTD's response to local concerns would be forgiven for thinking that displacing these communities is simply a matter of providing financial compensation for the loss of a house. **This is not true.** We are talking about the wholesale translocation of communities. These are neighbourhoods, with neighbours who have known and supported each other for decades. The job of finding a school place for every displaced child is formidable in itself. These children will lose their friendships at the same time that they are moving away from a network of family and neighbours. Elderly people will have to re-establish themselves in new homes and set themselves up with new GPs, new social service departments and new care providers. I urge all policy makers in question that such devastation should be avoided at all costs. There are other options on the table.

I ask that the Commission particularly examine the following concerns.

A third runway at Heathrow would lead to significantly more early deaths from **Air Pollution**. Heathrow Airport's pollution levels already remain stubbornly above EU legal limits. It is not just the air pollution caused by the airplanes but also the ground traffic on the M4 and M25 motorways. A new infrastructure would be needed, causing **Traffic Disruption** at a large scale. A new runway inevitably means a new flight path. Many people in West London and Berkshire could get planes for the first time and for as many as 13 hours a day.

People who live or work near Heathrow are already subjected to stress caused by high levels of **Noise Pollution**. All jet aircrafts are noisy and even introducing less noisy aircraft over the next 40 years will not make much difference because of the increase in flight numbers. More people will also be affected by road noise.

Britain is already suffering from a **Housing Crises**. Over 700 homes would be directly affected by Heathrow Expansion with thousands more blighted forever. It is strongly believed that up to 3000 home will be demolished as current plans leave too many people uncomfortably close to the new runway.

A third runway at Heathrow is not essential for the **London Economy**. More business people and tourists fly into London each year than fly to any other city in the world. Most have no preference which airport they use. I believe this trend will continue whether or not a third runway is built at Heathrow.

I would like to add that I reject any suggestion that Heathrow would not continue to thrive without a third runway. Despite the noise and air pollution that these communities put up with daily, they recognise its economic importance to the area and many would be left without jobs if it were to close. The idea that it would have to close in further expansion is not granted is a empty threat by Heathrow Airport LTD.

Heathrow's argument rests almost entirely on its status as a hub airport and claim that a significant proportion of transfer passengers are required in order to economically justify many routes. The Back Heathrow campaign has simply not clarified these arguments, New York, Paris and Tokyo all operate with two airport hubs. Why is it necessary for Heathrow to be the one and only mega-hub for London?

I hope that you take these points into consideration.

Kind Regards

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
www.hillingdon.gov.uk

Labour Group Office
London Borough of Hillingdon,
Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE