

This submission is to comment on the oral representation, made by Mr. Tim North of Tim North & Associates Ltd, at OFH 1 on the 10th August 2023.

Mr. North refers to an off airport car park operating without planning permission and without a certificate of lawfulness. This car park is located on Vauxhall Way and is in fact operated by his client (Airparks), contrary to the fact he mentioned Airparks operated at no other sites in Luton other than Slip End.

At the public inquiry for the 19mppa planning application, I made representations regarding the lawfulness of this off airport car park. It would appear that Luton Borough Council is turning a blind eye to its unlawful use and in doing so has lost control of planning enforcement of off airport parking. You cannot ignore one and then enforce on others. Many other companies are now operating off airport parking at sites in the town, in places such as the NCP car park, Power Court and Crescent Rd to name a few. It is quite probable that unlawful off airport parking capacity in Luton, now exceeds that of on airport long term capacity.

The train stations in Luton (Main and Airport Parkway) both now offer cheap airport parking, with a park and ride service via the DART. How can any traffic modelling account for these vehicles, whose occupants ultimately end up at the airport via public transport? Also, this could be having the knock on effect of forcing rail users to drive to other stations outside of Luton, or abandoning rail travel altogether.

With airport parking now left so uncontrolled, how can any 'Sustainable Travel Plan' by the Operator/Applicant, both presently and in the future, possibly be fit for purpose?

Attachments:

Luton train station adverts

19mppa representation


Airparks Vauxhall Way


Luton train station adverts





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\*Please note a valid rail ticket is required.

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## Luton Airport Parkway Station Car Park - APCOA Parking



10 Jul · 🌐

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Airport from Luton  
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**SAVE**  
up to  
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19mppa representation



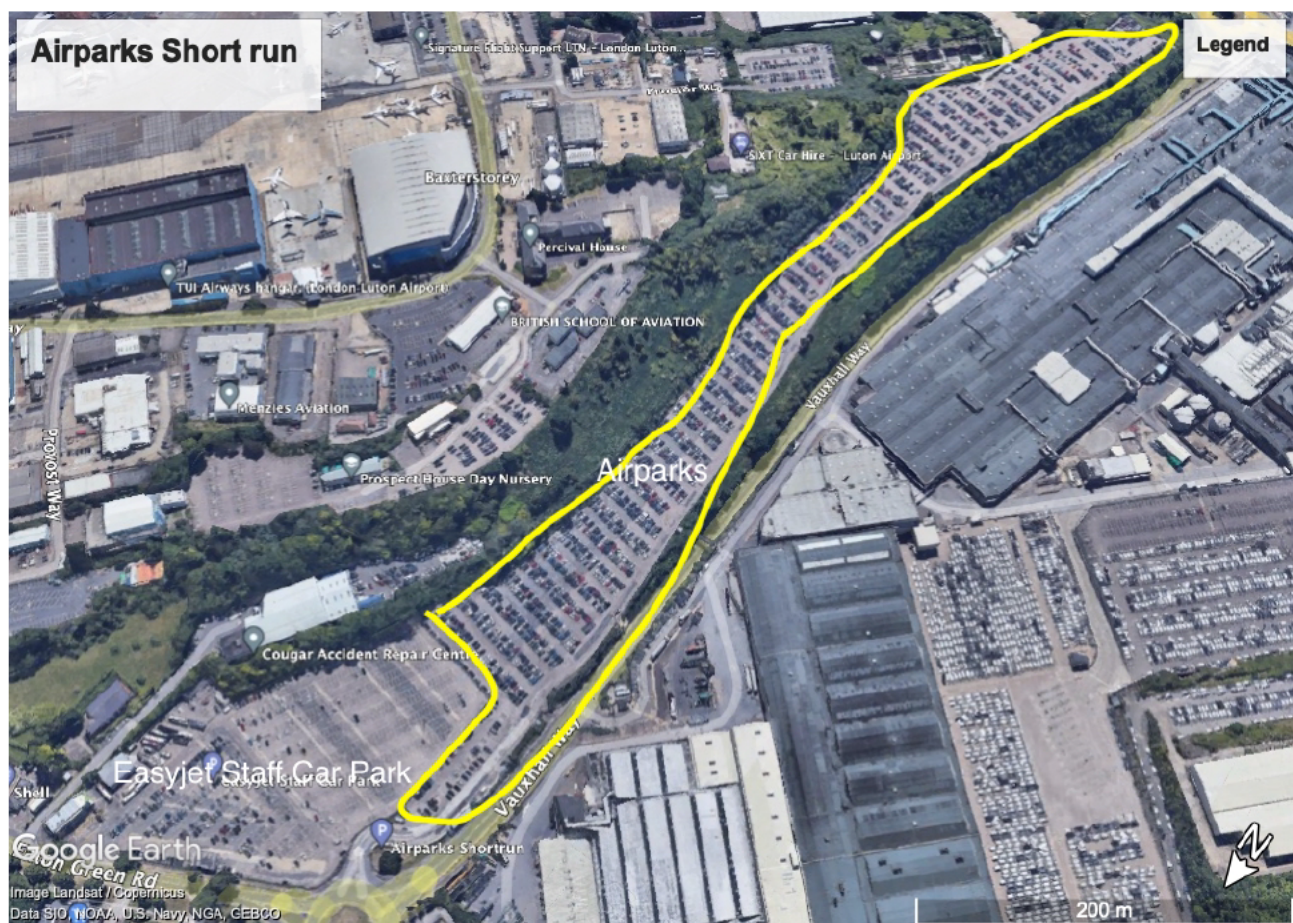
13th November 2022

Dear Sirs/Madam,

I've been following the Luton Airport planning inquiry via live feed and feel there is a need to raise a complaint regarding the evidence given by Mr. David Gurtler, LPA planning witness, on the 10/11/2022.

On the live feed at 1:32.30 of the pm session, on the above date, Inspector Holden asked Mr. Gurtler a question specifically regarding off airport related parking. His responses were vague and in my opinion deliberately misleads the inquiry.

On the same parcel of land as the Easyjet staff car park that Mr. Gurtler mentions, lies the former Vauxhall employee car park. This is key employment land according to the policies map. The car park has a capacity of 2000+ vehicles, is always full and has been operated as off airport parking (currently by Airparks), since Vauxhall vacated the site approximately 6 years ago. No planning consent has been sought/gained and no enforcement action has been taken. In fact the contrary is apparent. This car park runs a shuttle bus to its own dedicated bus stop within the Central Terminal Area. This could be considered help from the airport operator,





Mr. Gurtler also refers to how closely he works with Central Bedfordshire Council, yet fails to mention Airparks parking facility located at Slip End. This has a capacity of 4000+ vehicles, and again is always full and has been in operation for 20+ years.



These are huge car parks with a combined parking capacity on a par with the long/mid term capacity at the airport. They cannot be missed or forgotten, but they could be considered to undermine the airports car park management plan, as well as the surface access strategy. Also, the major airlines operating from the airport actively promote and sell what they call, “cheap airport parking” at these 2 sites via their flight booking engines.

Yours faithfully  
Richard Choppin

Airparks Vauxhall Way



