

PINS RECEIVED

18 JAN 2019

RAF MANSTON
SPITFIRE & HURRICANE
MEMORIAL MUSEUM

The Memorial Museum, Manston Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5DF
Tel: 01843 821940 www.spitfiremuseum.org.uk enquiries@spitfiremuseum.org.uk

The Planning Inspectorate
Manston Airport Project Team
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

January 11th 2019

Dear Sirs,

Re: Manston Airport

Please accept this letter on behalf of the RAF Manston Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum Trust, further to my oral submission today at the Manston Airport D.C.O. public meeting.

As you will be aware, our museum is located within the boundary of the applicant's D.C.O. application. We are one of two freeholders located within this boundary and offer our fullest support to the D.C.O. application and subsequent re-opening of Manston Airport. As you will be aware, we have signed a Statement of Common Ground with the applicant as a formal indication of this support. We can confirm that there is no truth in the rumours that we have been pressured to move or threatened with closure as a result of the applicant's plans.

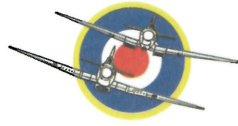
I have had the honour to be a Trustee of The RAF Manston Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museum since 2001. During this period, I have worked with a number of airport owners/operators who, before our freehold was granted in 2015, were the museum's landlords. The closure of the airport was a major disappointment; as we, and our franchised restaurant, lost the custom we gained from aviation enthusiasts and pilots/crew from visiting aircraft.

The closure also affected the number of coaches we received which was confirmed to me by the coach drivers and also couriers as being due to the lack of aircraft activity which had previously been enjoyed by their customers. Our visitor numbers were negatively affected through this loss of passing trade.



Museum Registration No. 1991 - Registered Charity No. 1159 597
Member of the South East Museums Agency - Member of Tourism South East





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We are a fully Arts Council England accredited, free to enter museum, who rely predominantly on the goodwill of our visitors to ensure our survival. Our income is generated from a number of sources which include; donations, bequests, café, shop and Simulator flight sales. We do not receive any public money towards our running costs. The Trust has recently made the transition to become a Charitably Incorporated Organisation. As a trust we are committed to our museum remaining free and therefore fully accessible to all; as we are in a deprived area. Recently, the Museums Association has been running a campaign called 'Museums change lives'. This campaign is aimed at promoting the fact that museums create better places to live and work and can significantly improve the health and wellbeing of their communities.

The Trust spends approximately £116,000 per annum operating the museum which includes the cost of protections including specialist insurance, climate and temperature controls and special security. We also provide full-time employment for our Manager and part-time employment to both a Collections Officer and Housekeeper. We also have a dedicated and diverse team of around sixty volunteers.

The cornerstones of our museum are the two preserved aircraft in the form of Supermarine Spitfire XVIe TB752 and Hawker Hurricane Mk IIc LF751. TB752 has been resident at Manston since 1955 when it arrived as gate-guardian for RAF Manston. This aircraft was restored at Rochester Airport in 1979 and subsequently housed in 1981 in the current building, costing some £35,000; which was financed by the local population who were keen to preserve 'The Manston Spitfire' as she had become known. The Hurricane was restored by the same team in 1988 and was then housed in a hall again paid for by the public; this time at a cost of £100,000. We also have a memorial garden where many local residents have plaques dedicated to loved ones. We are currently ranked on TripAdvisor as the 3rd most popular attraction in Thanet and the 10th most popular in Kent, ranking above the Chatham Historic Dockyard and Dover Castle.

Both our aircraft are on loan from the RAF Museum Hendon who have owned them since 2006. They form part of the National Collection and are both acknowledged as being fine examples of their types. In a recent communication, the Head of Collections at RAF Museum Hendon commended the work we are doing and emphasised that we would be welcome to bid to loan further artefacts in the future. I enclose a copy of this e-mail as supporting evidence.



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We would love to expand our educational offer and further promote our principles of Education, Remembrance and Reconciliation. A key part of this would be expanding our educational offer to local schools.

We are also keen to build on the success of our recently installed Spitfire Simulator which has proved very popular with locals and tourists alike, with approximately 1400 'flights' having been completed since April 2018. The development of the Simulator has facilitated a very close working relationship with the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar; an internationally recognised, world-leading, Spitfire operator and restoration specialist.

With all this in mind, the applicant has indicated that, if successful, they would be willing to discuss providing us with a fully funded, larger and up – to – date freehold premises so we could create a museum of national significance. The funding for this would need to be fully provided by the applicants as the Heritage Lottery Fund would be unlikely to fund a project such as this. We firmly believe that an expanded museum facility would be of great benefit to the community when paired with a re-opened airport. This, as I am sure you can appreciate, would bring much needed prosperity to, and raise the profile of, the local area as well as creating extra jobs. For instance, we would be keen to have a purpose-built education suite in any new building staffed by education professionals.

I thank you for your consideration of the above and hope that it will prove helpful to you as part of your examination process.

Yours Faithfully,

Marcus J. Russell
(Trustee – RAF Manston Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museum)

Encs.

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Presentation to PINS.

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Members of the Inspectorate.

I am Marcus Russell. I am a true Bradstonian, I was born, worked all my life and live in Broadstairs.

I am representing the RAF Manston Spitfire and Hurricane Museum, which is located within the D.C.O. location. We are the only freehold operation, apart from the Crown Land, within the D.C.O. perimeter. We support the RSP DCO application.

I have been on the Board of Trustees of the RAF Manston Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum since 2001. Our principals are EDUCATION, REMEMBRANCE, RECONCILIATION.

We have been working with RSP and I would like to say that there is no truth in the rumour that RSP have put us under any pressure to move to a new location.

We need the airport reopened. I will try to explain why.

Our Spitfire, known as the Manston or Thanet Spitfire, arrived in 1955; becoming the official RAF Station Gate Guardian

The Spitfire Hall was opened in 1981 - built with £35,000 donations from the Public, on Crown Land. This was when the Charity Trust was first started by the Royal Air Force. A further £100,000 was donated for the Hurricane Hall, again on Crown Land, which was opened by Vera Lynn in 1988. The x2 aircraft are on indefinite loan from the RAF Museum at Hendon and are part of the National Collection. They are acknowledged to be the finest of both Aircraft types on display in any UK Museum.

In 1999 at the point of sale by the MOD to Wiggins, we were given within this package to Wiggins. After this event we became a Civilian Charity Trust.

We are a free Museum in a relatively poor area. We have always been free, because we want to encourage regular visits by local people; especially those with relatives in our Memorial Gardens.

We depend on donations, bequests, shop and café sales for our income. Our annual running cost is about £116,000 p.a.

We opened a special coach park which was often full. We were gifted our Freehold, but the legal side cost us many £000's.

We employ a full time Manager, x2 part time employees and approx. x60 Volunteers.

A big proportion of our income is spent protecting the aircraft, including climate and humidity control, special aircraft insurance and sophisticated security costs as required by RAF Museum Hendon.

Since the airport closure we have lost our passing trade.

Most of the coaches have stopped coming. I have asked the coach drivers/couriers why they are not coming. The answer was that the passengers want to see an active airfield, whilst sitting in our gardens and eating a packed lunch.

We want to stay open and stay free. We need the return of passing trade, which a re-activated airfield will provide.

The R.S.P. proposal is to move us and build us a brand new Museum complex on nearby land; within the D.C.O. on the Northern Grass. We have exchanged a S.O.C.G. with R.S.P.

We will only be able to move if RSP provide all the money for every cost relating to both the move and installation – at least £5,000,000; and also replace our Freehold.

The HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund) will not provide money for requests involving new buildings.

We welcome this DCO proposal for the following reasons :-

We should have more income which will keep us free and solvent.

With more income, we would have the opportunity to employ specialist people within the Museum. This could be, for example, in the area of Education.

We want to expand our Education support to local schools, which is already happening, who have WW2 Curriculum in both Senior and Junior schools.

We would like to have an opportunity to be allowed to begin an onsite restoration of another aircraft. This could be a Fairey Swordfish bi-plane torpedo bomber, which is in store at RAF Stafford and would be appropriate to the Channel Dash attack on the German battleships in 1942. This action started from the grass area beside our Museum and featured Fleet Air Arm Swordfish from 825 Squadron.

We do have a written offer from RAF Museum Hendon of further loan objects. I can provide written evidence of this offer. This would tie-in with the offer by RSP to give us much more Museum floor area than the area that we have at the moment.

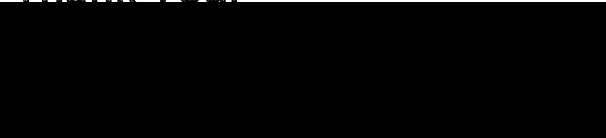
We are one of the biggest tourist attractions in the Thanet area. We were rated by Trip Advisor as the 2nd “Best Museum in Kent”. We are also rated above Dover Castle, at No. 9 within the list of all the Tourist Attractions in the County of Kent.

We would have the opportunity to construct a Museum of National Status and of 21st Century quality.

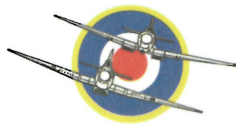
I will submit this statement to you next week.

I repeat my invitation of last Wednesday to you, to visit us during your next site visit on March 19th 2019.

Thank You.

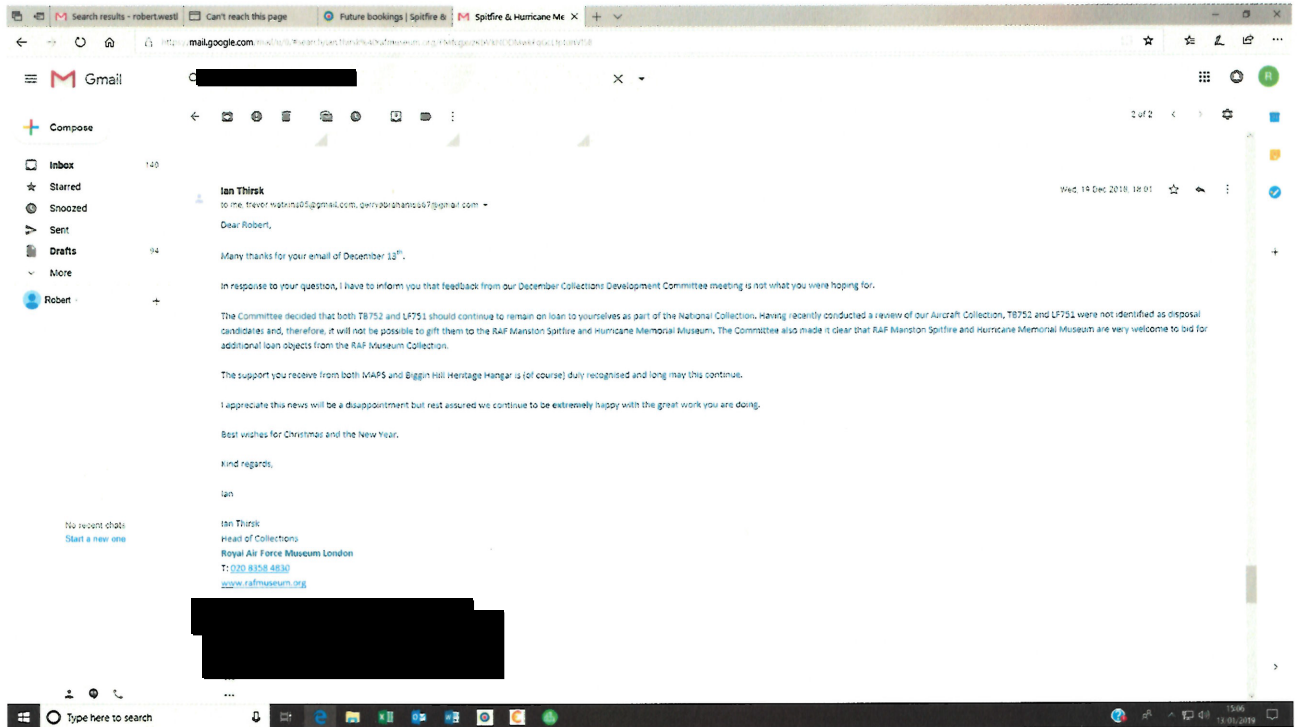


Marcus J. Russell



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Dear Sirs,

Above is a screen print of the e-mail communication referenced in my letter. This was received from [REDACTED] of RAF Museum Hendon by my fellow Trustee Mr [REDACTED] who acts as Trustee responsible for the Museum's collection.

I have reproduced this on the next page in a larger font for ease of reference.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]

Marcus J. Russell

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Dear Robert,

Many thanks for your email of December 13th.

In response to your question, I have to inform you that feedback from our December Collections Development Committee meeting is not what you were hoping for.

The Committee decided that both TB752 and LF751 should continue to remain on loan to yourselves as part of the National Collection. Having recently conducted a review of our Aircraft Collection, TB752 and LF751 were not identified as disposal candidates and, therefore, it will not be possible to gift them to the RAF Manston Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum. The Committee also made it clear that RAF Manston Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum are very welcome to bid for additional loan objects from the RAF Museum Collection.

The support you receive from both MAPS and Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar is (of course) duly recognised and long may this continue.

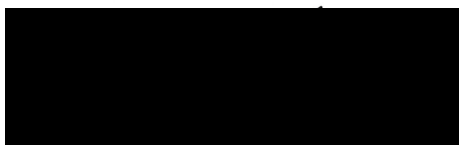
I appreciate this news will be a disappointment but rest assured we continue to be **extremely** happy with the great work you are doing.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Kind regards,

Ian

Ian Thirsk
Head of Collections
Royal Air Force Museum London
T: 020 8358 4830



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