

Written representation: Laura Marks

Public Hearing 18th March 2019; Oddfellows Hall

My name is Laura Marks, and I moved to Ramsgate four years ago and this is not a residency longevity competition.

I would like to share further evidence in respect of us not being listened to, and having nobody apart from the Examining Authority to share my concerns with, I thank you for this second opportunity to do so publically.

Through my words I am not declaring any political allegiances. This hearing allows my voice to be heard and I not be silenced by my MP with the suggestion I shouldn't buy a house under a flight path. In itself this is factually incorrect, as it hasn't been a flight path for 5 years and Manston didn't show up on any house purchase searches in 2015, the year I bought my house, which happens to be under a former flight path. I suggest the Examiners verify this themselves for house sales between 2014 to date will show you no Manston revivalist plans in any conveyancing materials.

At the last public hearing I made it known for the record that winning a seat as an MP is in my view, not a carte blanche mandate for assuming blanket support for every manifesto pledge. I wrote to Roger Gale the MP for Thanet North, and to the MP for Thanet South, Craig Mackinlay in the weeks after the hearing. I was concerned about my dissent being steamrollered, and that of others not in line with this supposed majority view. Despite being the self proclaimed MP for RSP Roger told me to take up my concerns with Craig Mackinlay as I was one of Craig's constituents. I would like to ask the Examiners to explore with the applicant how this DCO has engaged the whole community, and how the concerned majority have been consulted with meaningfully and authentically and I would like the Examiners to ask for evidence of this as I cannot find any. All I see is a steamroller of poorly outlined business plans, half-hearted and sometimes aggressive public consultations and a whole heap of sentiment over reasoning.

Our local politicians do like to remind us dissenters that their democratic majority is evidence they can reject our voices but the facts tell us otherwise. If we examine the case more closely, we find it was UKIP who were the dominant local party in support of Manston, until Chris Wells arrived at a more business like conclusion and TDC played musical chairs until they found a new leader who IS in support. Meanwhile, the real actual residents of Thanet who have to put up with this political okey cokey try and work out what is going on. Let's remind ourselves RSP has failed at CPO level twice, under two different TDC flavours and this is because at the heart of this thing the evidence remains clear; Manston just doesn't work, there is no need for this cargo hub and there is no evidence it is nationally significant.

Evidence shows that this majority view is on the decline. The last seat for Thanet North was won on a 4% reduced majority, and the south seat on a 10% reduction. We should also note that the Conservatives won 9 fewer seats on Thanet District

Council than they won in 2011 and that UKIP took control of the council in 2015. Hardly a blue aviation manifesto.

In his response to my alarm about so much anti London sentiment Craig Mackinlay says he is concerned that various London Boroughs will fill up Stone Hill Park as they have in other areas of Thanet. For me, this constant anti London message has sinister undertones, and it promotes a divided community, and it politicises the very real need for housing in east Kent, both private and social.

Anyone who thinks that a cargo plane over my head at 500 feet day and night is a good idea despite there being absolutely not one shred of evidence to suggest there is a need, nor is Manston in national interest is to be scrutinised to the greatest forensic degree. As this lack of clarity continues, and the answers get vaguer and further away from the lived experience it is my suggestion this DCO should be halted.

Thank you