

For the attention of the Manston Airport Case Team

Response to the invitation to write regarding Manston Airport

Dear Sir/ Madam,

1A Policies

I understand that in July 2020 the Thanet Local Plan safeguarded the Airport for airport related activities. During the period of Covid there have been greatly reduced commercial flights and therefore reduced cargo being carried in these aircraft. This highlights the need for a dedicated Cargo carrying airport especially if other such similar events might happen in the future.

This area is desperately in need of a large employer who will encourage training and will enthruse the large numbers who are unemployed or who have to travel outside the area for employment. One example of this is a young man that I know who travels 31 miles by public transport each day to Camber Sands for employment. A large amount of his life is spent on public Transport! Especially from my experience, I know that many people in Ramsgate will not travel 'all the way to Margate' because they have become isolated and extremely insular.

1B Benefits of the Development

I write as a retired Minister / Youth worker of 38 years experience. I lived in Luton for 22 years and I have lived and worked here in Thanet for the last 21 years. I have worked in a wide variety of communities but it is only in Thanet that I have come across 3rd Generational unemployed young people. When I lived in Luton the major employer was Vauxhall Motors and when the work there was vastly reduced it was the development of the Local Airport and the associated industries that took up those who were unemployed and were retrained.

2A The Effect of Covid

Once again to my personal knowledge I know, that despite the furlough support offered by the government, that 8 persons in employment were made redundant from their work at the commencement of the first Lockdown. From conversations with neighbours these are not isolated cases and the need for more employment is essential.

When I first came to Thanet I could see the great potential for the area with an Airport that would be functioning , especially coming with my experience of Luton Airport.

It is with regret that those who have owned the Airport have not capitalised on this potential.

I believe that the current plans by the developer, who had received agreement for the DCO, will be the life saver for this area.

I was not in agreement with the Ramsgate Town Council who used the public finances to object to the granting of DCO and I say this without any expressed membership or bias to any Political Party.

The best thing for this neglected and isolated area of Kent would be the confirmation of the granting of the DCO and the development of a thriving Cargo Airport.

Yours Sincerely

Rev Roy Bonner

Retire Minister /Youth Worker