

In Response to the Secretary Of States letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021  
inviting further comments to the Ove Arup Report

18/11/2021

**Key:** OVA: Ove Arup  
SOS: Secretary of State  
RSP: River Oak Strategic Partners  
E&A Examination Authority  
TDC: Thanet District Council

1) **Report:** This very concise, proficient and detailed report has clearly demonstrated that there is no **need** for the re-opening of the former airfield at Manston. This specialist and professional report commissioned by the secretary of state himself agrees totally with numerous other reports some of which I have named below

Alan Stratford & Associates

York Aviation

Falcon

Avia

Falcon

It also agrees with the original findings by the ExA back in 2018/19 after a far-reaching consultation with both the local community and the applicant themselves RSP. Despite the ExA conclusions the SOS under the guise of Andrew Stephenson ignored their findings and agreed to grant the DCO to everyone's utter amazement. And it was only after a successful Judicial Review brought about by local resident Jenny Dawes that we now find ourselves back in this position once again.

2) **Need & National Significance:** There is no doubting from all the well researched reports that there is no need both locally and indeed nationally for the re-opening of the Manston site for either a passenger terminal or a freight cargo hub. The former airfield has had four previous attempts at making Manston successful and all have failed miserably and this latest attempt which will also end in failure but sadly in the process of failing it will destroy our area, the health of our children of which a side consequence would be, to have a detrimental effect on their education and mental health. And it's not only our children that would suffer the elderly, the vulnerable would also be badly affected by noise and toxic

fumes. And that is all before we take in to account the disastrous impact on the environment. RSP have stated on numerous occasions that Manston would play an important role of National Significance. This ludicrous claim has been dismissed by all of the above reports. There is major capacity at all other operating airports to meet the needs of the UK and surely it is of more importance to develop existing airports rather than open up a new one! Especially when the claims made by RSP are not only dubious but also totally absurd. In short Manston would not benefit the UK in any way shape or form other than of course in the minds of RSP. With the UK well served by other more advanced and developed airports there simply is no need for Manston!

3) **Jobs:** Another myth propagated by RSP is that of the employment and the jobs the airport would bring to the area. It is worth remembering that Manston at its operating capacity only ever employed 150 people and most of those were part time roles. The farcical claims from RSP that over a number of years up to 20,000 thousand jobs will be created are at best comical and at worst a totally scandalous lie told to placate the local community and their small band of followers. With the advent of automation any jobs for local people would be minimal and any specialist roles would be met by people living outside the area!

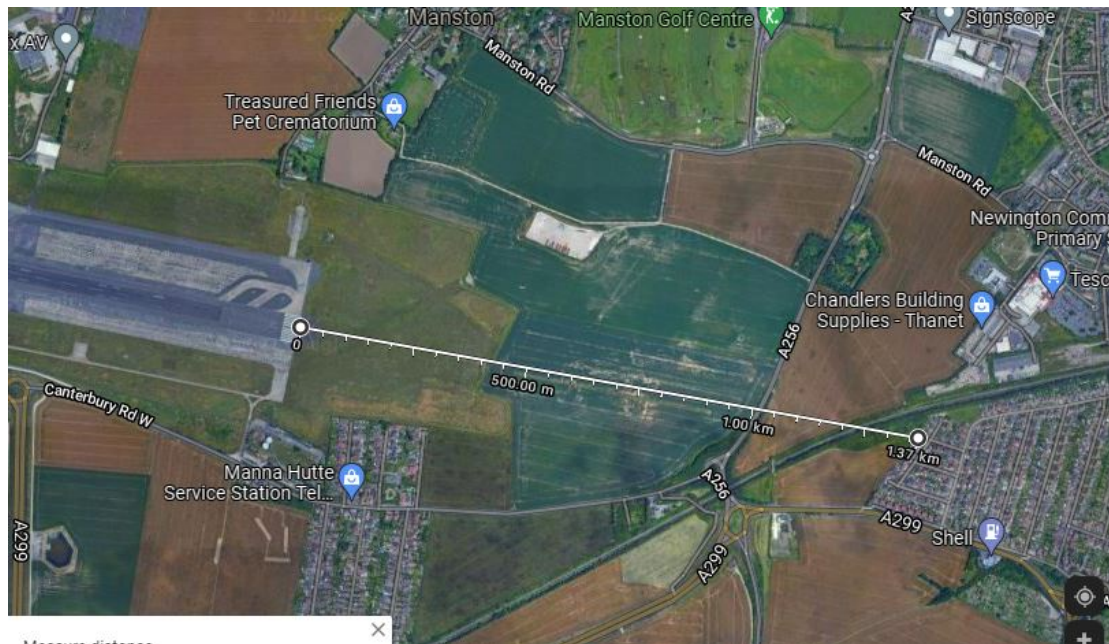
4) **Real Jobs:** There is no doubting that Thanet needs jobs that is to say real jobs and not fantasy ones that RSP like make us believe. We do of course need jobs but instead of losing valuable time on re-opening an airport for which there is no need whatsoever time would be better spent by our local council (TDC) who shamefully have scuppered every attempt to do something positive with the derelict site in favour of an airport when logic and aviation experts advised otherwise. We need our national government and our chamber of commerce to get companies to invest and bring real jobs to Thanet. We have so much to offer in our beautiful area and it is all being delayed and denied to us by this proposed development. Thanet is behind the curve and we are being left behind while the rest of the UK is way ahead of us. Time for it to stop and move forward and an airport that is not **required or needed** is not the way!!

5) **Climate Change/ CO Targets:** The UK has just finished hosting the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, where the Prime Minister is endeavouring to get the world to commit to lowering their CO2 emissions. How on earth then can the DFT and HMG government agree to pass a DCO for an airport that is not needed and would destroy our beautiful town, the lives of its people, our children, the tourism industry, and lastly the environment? What message is this sending out to the world??

**6) Thanet District Council:** There now must be serious doubts of the integrity of TDC and indeed to their impartiality on the Manston question. The council has changed leaders on regular basis so that they can carry the flag for RSP and the airport. How can their opinions be taken into account on the OVA report when some of them have consistently tried to rubbish its findings and also when a significant number of their councillors including the leader are members of the Save Manston Airport a group set up to support the re-opening of the former airfield. Instead as any **good** local council should do and look at every option on the table and there was one! from Stonehill Park the previous owners of Manston they would not listen to them or their proposals for the site they wanted and airport and nothing else was in the frame and they put every obstacle in their way to obstruct and frustrate them. Hardly the action of a council that cares for the area and its people.

Images:





Aerial views showing the closeness of Manston Runway to Ramsgate town. The homes at the end of the runway are the Nethercourt estate. These devastating images shows how dangerous and perilous both are in if this DCO is given the go ahead.

8) **In Conclusion:** Time spent on the Manston fiasco has left our area in no mans land. Council tax payers money spent by our local council (TDC) on fact finding reports for the former airport money that could have gone somewhere else all wasted on a fruitless venture that any sane minded local authority would have realised some time ago that after four attempts it was time to call it a day but sadly not our council they ploughed right on ahead and are still doing so today. I urge the SOS to come to a decision quickly and to quash DCO once and for all. This debacle has hung over our heads for far too long and is stopping investment in our area and it must stop and it must stop now!

Frank & Yvonne McNamara  
Ramsgate Residents