

## Response to Bristol Airport Development Proposals “Towards 2050”

This Parish Council notes the decision by Bristol Airport to implement a phased approach to the expansion of the airport from 10 to 12 million passengers per annum. The plan is to make better use of the existing site without the need to procure additional land.

The proposal to improve public transport access is essential but realistically there are limits to what can be currently achieved. The geographical siting of the airport, so far from the motorway network, makes any meaningful improvements prohibitively expensive and environmentally unsound. Consequentially this PC has major concerns regarding the environmental impact of 2 million extra PPA on the road network leading to the airport. The routes from the M5 and M4 motorways are, in the opinion of this PC, totally unsuited to take the volume of traffic which would ensue.

In this Parish, the residents of Failand are already experiencing traffic problems on the B3128 with cars also using side roads as “rat runs”. The airport will be aware of the action group FRAS which is working with this PC to find ways of alleviating the traffic issues.

The airport’s own figures show that as many as 20% of its passengers come from South Wales. Many of these travel through Failand to reach their flights. Whilst appreciating Cardiff airport is a competitor to Bristol airport, it is our view that the bigger picture should be considered. All airports are reliant on the Government for major infrastructure improvements and so part of that planning should be to improve the flight availability from Cardiff to minimise the need for so many cars to cross the Severn Bridge. This PC will be lobbying Liam Fox on this issue.

### Future Plans

The airport recognises that planning for 15 million + PPA will be influenced by technical developments in mass transit and also aircraft design. If these innovations result in far fewer vehicles clogging our road network, and the need for less parking lots at the airport, then perhaps a further increase in passenger numbers might be justified. Until this happens this PC will not support any further development at Bristol airport.