

**From:** Hilary Burn <hilaryburn@live.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 05 November 2019 12:30  
**To:** editorial@chewvalleygazette.co.uk; editor@westgaz.co.uk;  
editorial@mendiptimes.co.uk; Wright, Tom; newsdesk@westonmercury.co.uk  
**Subject:** Press Release - Parishes call for Moratorium on Airport Expansion

## **Parish Councils Airport Association (PCAA)**

**PRESS RELEASE – 5 NOVEMBER 2019**

### **PARISHES AND COMMUNITIES CALL FOR MORATORIUM ON AIRPORT EXPANSION**

A coalition of airport communities has called on the Government to suspend any increase in UK airport capacity until it has developed a plan for tackling the aircraft emissions which contribute to climate change.

The call for an immediate moratorium is set out in a letter [see Notes] to the Secretaries of State for Transport and for Housing, Communities and Local Government. The letter is signed by a number of environmental and community campaign groups as well as parishes surrounding Bristol Airport.

Many UK airports including Belfast, Bristol, East Midlands, Gatwick, Glasgow, Heathrow, LondonCity, Luton, Manston, Newcastle and Stansted currently have expansion plans. However, there is still no policy setting out how greenhouse gases from the aviation industry can be reconciled with legislation committing the UK to delivering net zero emissions by 2050. The Government recently delayed until next year the publication of its new long term strategy for UK aviation, which will address the sector's noise and climate impacts.

Expansion proposals announced by UK airports would increase the country's airport capacity by an estimated 200 million passengers per annum, an increase of over 70% compared to the 285 million passengers that passed through UK airports in 2017.

Hilary Burn, Chair of the Parish Councils Airport Association said: "Whilst other sectors are reducing their carbon footprint, aviation CO2 emissions continue to grow apace. On present trends aviation will, by 2050, be the UK's biggest contributor to climate change. Recently issued figures for global aviation passenger transport for 2018 have the UK in third place for the greatest CO2 emissions behind the USA and China. That is not a proud record for a country with less than one per cent of the world's population."

Hilary Burn added: “The need to tackle climate change is an urgent challenge if we are to prevent a climate emergency becoming a climate disaster. Until a settled Government policy is established for tackling aviation greenhouse gas emissions there should be a moratorium on all airport expansion planning applications.”

## **NOTES**

The letter can be read via link <https://www.aef.org.uk/uploads/2019/10/Moratorium-letter-.pdf>

The Parish Councils Airport Association is a member of the Aviation Environment Federation and Aviation Communities Forum

## **FURTHER INFORMATION AND COMMENT**

Hilary Burn, Chair, Parish Councils Airport Association (M) 07854 444 609