

Parish of Wrestlingworth and Cockayne Hatley

Clerk: C.Dear, 8 Braggs Lane, Wrestlingworth, Beds, SG19 2ER ☎ 01767 631383
email address: Wrestlingworthch@gmail.com

Chairman: Mr Robin Barratt, 1 Church Lane, Wrestlingworth, Beds, SG19 2EU ☎ 01767 631418

Airspace Change
Flight Operations
London Luton Airport
Percival House,
Percival Way,
Luton
LU2 9NU

February 2021

Copy by email to :
Richard Fuller MP
Adam Zerny Cllr Central Bedfordshire Council
Tracey Wye Cllr Central Bedfordshire Council

Dear Sirs,

Proposed Changes to London Luton Airport (LLA) Arrivals – Response to Consultation

Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council object strongly to these proposed changes on behalf of the residents of our Parish.

We have reviewed the detailed proposals that LLA are seeking responses on, and whilst none of the members of the council are experts in this area, we have serious concerns about the proposals and the procedure used in regards to the consultation process, as follows;

- 1) Consultation Process – we consider this to be flawed and completely disregards the views of the residents of Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish. You are presenting for comment two options that both end up with the same result for this Parish: all flight arrivals travel over the Parish, offering us no choice and, if we complete the online consultation, we have to ‘agree’ with this. This is grossly unfair and it is our view that you should abandon this consultation and start the process again, involving the community & the local governing bodies at a far earlier point and presenting a wider range of options that give all residents a choice.
- 2) Volume Projections – the growth figures used in regards to demand for air travel are based on pre-pandemic volumes. These are now completely out of date; the world has changed and will never be the same again. It will be a very slow process for the demand for air travel to increase and is highly unlikely to reach the previous volumes, let alone grow further for many many years. New post-pandemic modeling should be commissioned and used as the basis for considering future flight path plans, if indeed these are now necessary.

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- 3) Noise Pollution – it is recognised that technological advancements have reduced the decibel levels emitted by modern aircraft, however, your options do not appear to take in to account the rural nature of the areas being flown over. The noise pollution in a quiet rural community will have a far greater impact on the population than it would in an urban environment where there is far more ambient background noise and aircraft noise would be less intrusive. The pandemic has demonstrated how valuable our green spaces & open countryside are to people’s physical and mental health, destroying the tranquility of the rural environment is irresponsible. Flight paths should take into account the background noise levels of different areas and aim to keep the impact of aircraft to a minimum. Use should be made of existing ground transport routes like motorways, major trunk road routes, rail routes and existing urban areas.

The above points lead us to the conclusion that the current plans that you are putting out for consultation should be abandoned and the requirement to change flight paths be restarted taking into account the post pandemic circumstances and the importance of the rural environment.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by emailing the Parish Clerk at ‘wrestlingworthch@gmail.com’.

Yours Faithfully



Robin Barratt
Chairman, Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley Parish Council.