



Buckden Parish Council

Acting Chairman: Caroline Underwood

By email to: standbrookN@parliament.uk

Ramune Mimiene
Clerk to the Council
Buckden Village Hall
Burberry Road
Buckden
St Neots
PE19 5UY
Tel: (01480) 819407
07483 333557

Email clerk@buckdenpc.org.uk

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Dear Mr Djanogly,

Thank you for your letter outlining your position in relation to the consultation re LLA and NATS Airspace Change Proposal. Like you, we are very concerned about the proposed aircraft stacking plan by LLA & NATS consultation (Luton Airport) and do not want it to go ahead, for the following reasons:

1. The reason given by NATS for the proposal is that air travel will expand beyond the peak of pre COVID levels and that consequently it will not be possible to use the existing flight paths safely. Obviously all the calculations about increases in air travel will have been done before the Covid-19 pandemic started. There is a probability that the massive growth in international internet conferencing resulting from the pandemic will cause a lasting downturn in international business travel. This likelihood is supported by the evidence that is now becoming apparent of the significant increase in home working which has every prospect of becoming permanent.

As environmental concerns accelerate and international action is taken to combat climate change (in which air travel plays a significant part in) it is probable that people will voluntarily reduce their holiday air travel and it is possible that governments will step in to regulate the number of air miles people can use annually. The combined effect of these factors is likely to be that air travel will never exceed its pre-Covid levels and indeed may never come back to those levels. This undermines the whole rationale of the proposed changes. Since there is no other reason cited by NATS for making the changes, Buckden Parish Council believes that:

1. The proposal should be put on hold;



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2. NATS should reconsider its projections regarding future aircraft movements until the long term effects of the pandemic on international business travel and the future of holiday travel are clearer
3. If revised projections regarding an increased level of air travel are made, warrant changes to the present flights paths and stacking areas, increasing the existing two stacking areas to three, then that third area should be sighted over an area that will cause the least environmental impact, to both the population and areas of quiet recreation, such as large SSSI's (sites of special scientific interest).

Thank you for asking us to respond directly to you about this. We will post your letter on our website and encourage Buckden residents to contact you with their views.

We include the link below for your reference sent to us by a resident,
© NATS 2013

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeHFqX3-TYU&feature=youtu.be>

Yours sincerely

Caroline Underwood LLB
Chairman to Buckden Parish Council