

BACKWELL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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BRS Consultation
FREEPOST

Dear Sirs

Bristol Airport Public Consultation

I am writing on behalf of Backwell Residents Association (BRA), which is a membership organisation representing over 400 paid up households in the Parish of Backwell and which seeks to safeguard and promote the collective interests of Backwell residents in matters concerning social, economic and community life and the character of the Village.

BRA is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the short-term plans to increase capacity to 12 million passengers per annum and associated design options in the Master Plan Consultation Stage 2. Our comments focus on the airport's impact on Backwell's residents, and particularly those in Downside.

General Comment

The Stage 2 document indicates a comprehensive awareness of the issues that the airport expansion will bring about. If expansion to 12mppa is managed and conducted in accordance with all the assurances in the Consultation document, the impact on the environment (noise, light and air pollution etc) will be minimised and will partially offset the inevitable adverse effect of this increase in passenger numbers.

Consultation Point: Towards 12mppa (page 41)

Q2, Q3, Q4: For Backwell and particularly Downside residents the airport already generates a very significant volume of traffic – mainly private cars and taxis. This is bad enough along Brockley Combe but worse on the narrow, inadequate roads down to Backwell and Backwell Farleigh. Taxis often drive too fast and in an inconsiderate manner. With very limited changes to transport infrastructure, an increase from the current 8mppa to 12mppa seems likely to cause a commensurate increase in surface access requirements which could be as much as 50% - very unpleasant for local residents. These issues should be given high priority in the airport's surface access/transport discussions with

North Somerset Council. Improvements to the A38 junctions with Downside and West Lane are essential.

Consultation Point: Design Options (page 34)

Long term future Q1:

A. and B. Entrance Gateway and Boundary - At page 31, the last paragraph sums up the potentially significant impact on Downside residents, who should be consulted at each stage of the process.

Final Comment – Beyond 12mppa

Increases beyond 12mppa and aspirations for an Employment Zone seem very ambitious for a site which is so heavily constrained by its location, local topography and infrastructure.

BRA looks forward to commenting on the 12mppa Planning Application in the autumn.

Yours faithfully

M J Veal
Hon. Secretary, Backwell Residents Association