

BRA Bulletin 18th June 2018

- Tell the owners of Bristol Airport what you think by Friday July 6

We have a final opportunity to make our views known to the airport owners (Ontario Teachers' Pension Fund) by July 6, before they submit their formal planning application to North Somerset Council (NSC). Anyone with strong views is urged to make these known to Bristol Airport by July 6th. Even more importantly, there will be a chance to comment to NSC in the autumn, as it will make the final decision on the proposals.

Why is it important to Backwell Residents?

- Many of us use the airport on our doorstep for business or pleasure and have benefited from the growing number of destinations that allow us to avoid the journey to Heathrow or Gatwick.
- For those living very close to Bristol Airport (or are under the flight path), noise and pollution are significant issues that have a severe impact on their lives. For some the proposed expansion of the airport boundary will require the use of their land.
- The airport is a major employer in the area.
- Airport traffic already plays an important part in making our inadequate rural roads so busy – in particular in Brockley Combe, Cheston Combe, Church Lane and Backwell Hill Road. Many residents' homes are blighted by already fast, frequent vehicles passing their houses at all hours.
- Later phases of the proposed airport expansion would interact with the proposals in the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP), which involves the development at Grove Farm and in Nailsea for a total of 3,500 houses. All these developments would make huge demands on our infrastructure.

History of Airport Numbers

The main measure used is million passengers per year (mppa). Air travel has grown steadily over recent decades and is forecast to continue at a similar pace. The figures for Bristol are:

2008	6 mppa	(actual)
2017	8 mppa	(actual)
2025	12 mppa	(forecast)
2035	15 mppa	(forecast)

Consultation by Bristol Airport

The Airport has publicised its views with two sets of drop-in events, each with a brochure of explanation. The first was in late 2017/Jan 2018, which invited comments and some 1750 were received in total. The latest drop-in events have almost finished, but there are still a few local ones. (Portishead 19th June, Barrow Gurney 22nd, Churchill 26th and Hilton Hotel at the airport 30th). Details are on its website www.bristolairport.co.uk/future. (under the "Have your Say" tab) The latest brochure, called Master Plan Stage II – Towards 2050 is 48 pages long but has many plans and diagrams to aid the reader.

Planning Process

Bristol Airport will receive comments on its latest plans and submit a planning application to NSC to take them up to 12 mppa. It already has permission to increase up to 10 mppa but given the implementation time for major change it needs to plan years ahead.

The expansion to 12mppa, taking the airport to about 2025, can be achieved with only limited expansion outside its current boundary. Beyond this level, the expansion will require the use of land not owned by the Airport and new transport links which it will not control, and in some cases, use of Green Belt land.

A key question for Backwell residents is can our current infrastructure of roads accommodate a 50% expansion in passenger numbers? The brochures give some suggestions of improvements in the short term up to 2025, and the long term (eg rail/metro links) but these will be built by other bodies, with some financial support from Bristol Airport.

BRA has submitted a short letter of comment to Bristol Airport, which is available on our website, under the tab: Bristol Airport Public Consultation.

What do I need to do?

- Visit one of the remaining drop-in events if you have not already done so – to date they have been giving out their brochures to each attendee.

Make your views known to Bristol Airport by July 6th

Keep an eye open for our bulletins in the autumn once the Airport has developed its plans for 12mppa into the formal application to NSC.

Best wishes

From your BRA Committee

Visit our website on

www.backwellresidents.org.uk

Email us at

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PS New Subject!! Reminder for tomorrow: Tues 19th June, from 6pm to 8pm. The developers of Coles Quarry are holding a drop-in at the Parish Hall to explain their plans.