**BRA Bulletin - Bristol Airport Planning Application**

**Dear Member**

You may have received a leaflet explaining that Bristol Airport has submitted an outline planning application to North Somerset Council (NSC) to expand its operations from the current level of 8m passengers a year to 12m a year, which it expects to achieve in the mid 2020’s. (Their present permission allows them to expand to 10m.) **The closing date for comments is Saturday Jan 26th**.

**Background** Bristol Airport has grown steadily over recent decades, and the owners (Ontario Teachers Pension Fund) are anticipating a continuation of this steady growth.

They produced a report in November 2017 on their aspirations for growth to 12m, and held a number of public drop in events in the local community during November 2017 to January 2018. This suggested different ways in which the airport might achieve the required increase in capacity.

In May 2018 a follow up report was produced, including a projection towards 2050. This report was also explained in a series of drop-in events. Events were held in Backwell for both consultations.

The May 2018 report may be seen on [**www.backwellresidents.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Master-plan-consultation-Stage-II.pdf**](http://www.backwellresidents.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Master-plan-consultation-Stage-II.pdf)**.**

BRA responded to this consultation [Letter 16th June 2018 Bristol Airport Consultation](http://www.backwellresidents.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Letter-16th-June-2018-Bristol-Airport-Consultation.pdf)

Subsequently Bristol Airport produced a Noise Action Plan, showing the steps they would take to reduce noise. BRA’s response may be found on [Letter to Bristol Airport – Noise Action Plan – 27 September 2018](http://www.backwellresidents.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Letter-to-Bristol-Airport-Noise-Action-Plan-27-September-2018.pdf)

**Current Application (18/P/5118/OUT)** This application has been posted on the North Somerset Council (NSC) website**. We encourage members to send their views on the airport expansion to NSC. Now is the time to do this – by Sat Jan 26th.**

**NB. Comments so far as part of the consultation process have been sent to Bristol Airport. Comments now on their application to NSC go directly to NSC which has decision making powers. Even if you took part in the consultation process it is worth commenting now to NSC.**

The website gives a summary of the expansion proposals and the 131 documents relating to it!

[**https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=PJML85LPMKI00&activeTab=summary**](https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=PJML85LPMKI00&activeTab=summary)

Currently there are 140 comments from members of the public on the NSC website. BRA will send its response in the next 7-10 days and post it on the BRA website.

**Factors to consider**

* **For expansion**

Local residents benefit from having easy access to a regional airport – for leisure and business travel.

The airport is a major employer and makes a significant contribution to the local economy.

* **Against expansion**

**Noise.** Residents living close to the flight path suffer noise during take-off and landing, especially in the busy summer period when people are most likely to be outside.

**Air Pollution.** The intended increase in passenger numbers will inevitably increase air pollution.

The above are national issues. There are also factors related to the siting of Bristol Airport, which is generally considered to be far from ideal.

**Local Transport Infrastructure.** Roads serving the airport are currently congested and inadequate, barely coping with the current traffic levels from almost any direction. Given the hilly terrain, it would be expensive to upgrade the infrastructure. There is also no easy link to rail services.

**Environment.** The local area is of a rural nature with many scenic views, and includes Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and Sites of Nature Conservation Interest. The application also includes further encroachment into the Green Belt.

**Summary.** It is a personal view of the balance between all the benefits and convenience of a local airport and saving on travel to more distant airports, **versus** ever increasing impact locally through noise, pollution, clogged up inadequate roads, and damage to the environment.

**How to Comment Go to the NSC website on:**

[**https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=makeComment&keyVal=PJML85LPMKI00**](https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=makeComment&keyVal=PJML85LPMKI00)

**Please do so by Sat Jan 26th**

It would be greatly appreciated if you also copied us into your response. This would enable BRA to note the factors that members feel are most important.

Best wishes

From your BRA Committee 9th January 2019

**Please come to our AGM on Tuesday 12th February at 7pm**

**in the Sixth Form Lecture Theatre at Backwell School**

**Visit our website on** [**www.backwellresidents.org.uk**](http://www.backwellresidents.org.uk/)

**Email us at** [**backwellresidents@btinternet.com**](mailto:backwellresidents@btinternet.com)