

PLANE SPEAKING

Giving a voice to residents under the City Airport and Heathrow flight paths

The newsletter of HACAN East

March 2017

CONCENTRATED FLIGHT PATHS BEING REVIEWED ONE YEAR ON

It is a year ago, in February 2016, that London City Airport concentrated its flight paths. It was required in February 2017 to submit a report to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on how the flight paths have been working, including community reaction to them. The CAA has until May to consider that report. It may order changes. In any event, London City has indicated it may also look at any changes which can be made. It is unlikely to do this before the Government announces its national policy on airspace, expected in autumn of this year (see next story).

KEEP UP THE PRESSURE

We are making a difference!

Email London City Airport:

environment@londoncityairport.com

Email the Civil Aviation Authority:

aree@caa.co.uk

Tell your story to your local newspapers and online forums

Sign and promote this petition:

<https://tinyurl.com/hdvcta7>

We are already making a difference!



The Department for Transport has launched a public consultation on Airspace Policy. It is proposing that communities should be much more closely involved in any flight path changes. It is also arguing that respite should be an option when changes are made.

The Government had hoped to stay out of the airspace debate but was forced to act after the public outcry at London City and Gatwick when concentrated flight paths were introduced. People flocked to packed public meetings like the one in Leytonstone (pictured left).

It would be good if as many people as

possible responded to the consultation. You can find the consultation at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/589099/uk-airspace-policy-consultation-executive-summary.pdf (summary). Responses to be emailed to airspace.policy@dft.gsi.gov.uk.

Closing date: 25th May. Remember, in order to respond, you don't need to be an expert. Just say what you think and explain how aircraft noise affects you. But also feel free to use the points in the box overleaf.

TWO MAJOR PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

The Department for Transport is consulting on Airspace Policy and on an third runway at Heathrow. They are separate consultation but the closing date for both is 25th May.

THE THIRD RUNWAY CONSULTATION

This is causing a lot of controversy, particularly in West London and Berkshire. A third runway will also impact on East and South East London. The problem will be the extra 250,000 planes that will be using Heathrow each year.

However, there are proposals in the consultation document which could mitigate the impact on East and South East London. The Department for Transport is proposing permission for a third runway would be made conditional on certain measures being put in place including a tougher night flight regime, respite routes and legally-binding noise targets.

Key measures we are calling for:

A night flight ban for at least 7 hours (11pm – 6am)

The ideal would be a ban at Heathrow until 7am. That, however, is unlikely. But a 7 hour night ban is perfectly possible since, if a 3rd runway opens, there will be the spare capacity for the 16 arrivals currently permitted between 4.30am and 6am to land on it after 6am

Guaranteed respite for all communities within 25 miles of Heathrow

It is important that respite – predicable periods of relief from the noise – is not confined to areas closer to Heathrow. Aircraft using the airport fly over vast swathes of London and the Home Counties. It is essential, therefore that periods of respite are guaranteed for everybody within 25 miles from Heathrow.

The combined impact of Heathrow and London City is taken into account

Right now, the two airports plan and operate quite separately. We want to see the airports working together to assess the cumulative impact on East and South East London of planes from the two airports. We also want to see them liaising when planning respite routes.

Don't let East and South East London be forgotten!

It is important that as many people as possible respond from East and SE London to remind the Department for Transport that Heathrow doesn't just affect West London. A short response using these points or simply telling you story will be enough. You don't need to be an expert!

You'll find the consultation document on:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/588764/draftairports-nps-web-version.pdf

Email your response to: runwayconsultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Do you fancy working for HACAN East?

We will shortly be advertising for a Community Campaigner. It will be two days a week for a year. The job will focus on liaising with local groups and building up a grassroots network. Salary £10,000. An advert will shortly appear on our website but if you are interested in finding out more email johnstewart2@btconnect.com

Key points to make on Airspace Policy Consultation

Welcome:

The community will be more closely involved in any future flight path changes

Multiple routes must at least be considered as an alternative to concentration

An Independent Noise Authority to be set up to ensure communities get a fair deal

There is recognition for the first time that people some distance from the airport can be impacted by the noise.

And add that if all this had been in place a year ago we would probably not have the horror of the concentrated flight paths

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