

HIGH EASTER PARISH COUNCIL

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The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
c/o National Planning Casework Unit
5 St Philips Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham B3 2PW

2nd January 2019

Dear Mr Brokenshire

PLANNING APPLICATION UTT/18/0460/FUL – STANSTED AIRPORT

High Easter Parish Council was dismayed at the November 2018 Uttlesford Planning Committee process which resulted in the decision to grant approval to the increase in passenger numbers at Stansted Airport. The apparent lack of knowledge and commitment to the discussion by some District Cllrs has led us to write to you and ask you to consider calling in this application for consideration at national level given its significance and the impact the decision to grant approval without thorough and robust debate has on the community of High Easter.

High Easter is a quiet, rural village with no ambient background noise. The village is directly under Clacton 22 east route, aircraft overfly at an average of 5,000 feet and the central line of the flight path passes over the most populated and historic parts of the parish; residents are significantly impacted by noise. The community already feels severely let down by the decision makers following changes to departure routes in February 2016 and the introduction of Performance Based Navigation which both adversely impacted us. There has been no attempt by MAG to discuss our issues or to find ways to mitigate their impact.

The Parish Council received a first-hand report of the meeting as one of our Cllrs attended (10am to 6pm) and gave a 3-minute objection speech on behalf of the parish; this is in addition to our detailed written response and questions on the application.

With only four hours for questions on over 12,000 pages of documents, this Parish Council does not feel its own questions and objections were fully considered or responded to. The process gave no opportunity for debate to take place on what some may see as minor issues, but which have a significant impact on communities and individuals.

As an example, High Easter Parish Council feels this proposal fails to take into account emerging government guidance in CAP1498 which seeks to represent the views of the often smaller communities whose lives are blighted by aircraft noise beyond the historic standard contours. MAGS in responding to this question in its 258-page statement on the written responses of the statutory consultees, argues that this is not relevant as CAP1498 refers to airspace change and not annual passenger limits which is the subject of its proposal. MAGS goes on to argue there is no change to the permitted number of flights where CAP1498 would apply. The Parish Council disagrees with MAGs on what constitutes an increase in flights, but there was no opportunity for this discussion to take place to explore this further.

This Parish Council is not against carefully considered economic development in the region which takes appropriate account of the impact on the local communities effected by such development, it is however strongly opposed to any such decisions which are made without due consideration and regard for the opinions of local residents

High Easter Parish Council would urge you to call in this application for national consideration in order that an appropriate, informed and considered debate can take place where Parish Councils and residents questions and views are considered, debated and accurately responded to.

Yours sincerely

ALLISON WARD
Clerk to High Easter Parish Council

cc Kemi Badenoch MP
 Susan Barker Uttlesford District Councillor (High Easter and The Rodings)