

FARNBOROUGH AIRPORT'S EXPANSION APPLICATION HAS STARTED

Dear Honourable Members of Parliament,

Over the past six years, Farnborough Noise Group (FNG) had devoted considerable time and effort to provide factual information to MPs, councils and the public regarding Farnborough Airport and private jets. We have even invested in noise monitoring equipment as the airport has refused to provide it, despite it being required to do so. Recent noise assessments of **some** of Farnborough's aircraft have now started but fall woefully short of what is needed. All the work undertaken to date by FNG has been done on a voluntary basis at considerable personal cost and time to us.

The airport has engaged with Farnborough Noise Group in the past, but more in the capacity of closing down and silencing our endeavours rather than answering questions and acting on residents' concerns. Although we agree there should be a fair balance between economic growth and environmental needs in our local community, we do not have the capacity to compete with the airport and their professional advisors, particularly if the organisations that are in place to represent the public's concerns, such as local councils, the FACC and the CAA, have policies that create an uneven playing field.

Further, our attempts to engage with members of the public is now proving difficult as most of the social media tools we use to communicate (Facebook, Nextdoor) have been blocked. The FACC and Rushmoor Borough Council should be holding the airport to account but they aren't. We, and the wider public, therefore request your help in representing your constituents' concerns.

The airport has submitted a request to Rushmoor Borough Council for advice on an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before submitting a formal planning application to double flights at the weekends and operate larger aircraft¹. You may remember that we and the public believed that this was their original intention in the previous application and the proposed increase to 70,000 flight was a smokescreen to detract from what they really wanted – to operate more leisure flights at weekends.

The EIA submission is 300 pages. We have worked through this document quickly and have initial observations but our main concern is how the public can respond to it as it is technically complex and a statutory five-week process started last Wednesday (10th September). If this is accepted without challenge, it effectively gives the airport a free pass through the next stage which would be a formal planning application they intend to submit in Autumn. Legislation, MPs and many organisations have stated that there must be full and effective public consultation on the proposals.

1. <https://publicaccess.rushmoor.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=T2D594NM0HX00>

Farnborough Noise Group
18th September 2025

¹ <https://publicaccess.rushmoor.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=T2D594NM0HX00>