**Message from environmental groups – Farnborough Airport Demonstration**

*I'm writing to you to let you know about the above event and to ask you to notify people who are members / supporters of your organisation. I expect you will already know that Farnborough Airport is planning a significant expansion of its operations, which will result in doubling the number of private jets flights, with all the attendant increase in noise and pollution. There will be many negative effects locally; for instance, 30,000 children attend local schools under flight paths below 3,000ft. £2.5 billion could be wiped off the value of local housing.*

*Of course, there are wider environmental concerns. You will probably also be aware that a flight in a private jet is roughly 30 to 40 times more harmful to the environment per passenger mile than one in a normal passenger plane. These expansion plans are being made when millions of people across the world are already experiencing the devastating effects on their lives of climate change, and when scientists are issuing urgent calls for rapid reductions in the use of fossil fuels in order to keep us all safe.  It’s simply unacceptable that a few very wealthy people put their own desires for luxury and convenience over the rights of ordinary people for a peaceful healthy life on a habitable planet.*

*A great many local people have objected to these proposals both via the airport’s ‘Public Consultations' and through the planning application process. Unfortunately, we know that these processes are unlikely to be robust enough to prevent the expansion going ahead. A very visible and vociferous public campaign is necessary to persuade those with the political power to stop this. Individuals as well as local groups like Extinction Rebellion Waverley and Borders, Blackwater Valley Friends of the Earth and Alton Climate Action Network, have been organising regular public demonstrations at the airport gates in recent months.*

*On January 27th January we plan a much bigger demonstration than has so far taken place. The event will include a march from Farnborough Town Centre to the airport and a rally at the gates with various speakers. Please tell us if you or someone from your organisation would like to be included in the list of potential speakers. This will be a peaceful, family-friendly event, liaised in advance with the Hampshire police and properly stewarded to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all concerned.*

*We really hope that supporters of your organisation will join in with this event. A large demonstration of public opposition is crucial to the efforts being made by our group and others to halt this destructive plan. The march will start from Queensmead, Farnborough, GU14 7SB at 11am on Saturday 27th January. Please help us spread the word.*