

Newsletter to existing councils and new councils – April 2024

Judging by the many posts on social media, newspaper articles and the 5,000 signatures to a petition against Farnborough Airport's proposed expansion, what happens at the airport and the changes to flightpaths is a big issue for many people in west Surrey and east Hampshire. Since the airport was sold to private investors in 2000, the number of flights has increased to 33,000 a year (with a permit for 50,000). In February Farnborough Airport Ltd submitted a planning application for an increase to 70,000 flights (doubling the number at weekends) and operating larger aircraft. While the airport has a licence for "business" flights, most of the increase has been at weekends and leisure flights for the very wealthy. With there being on average only 2.5 passengers per plane and 40% flying empty, you can see why people are unhappy about the increase in noise but also they are concerned about emissions impacting climate change and the health risk of ultrafine particle pollution. Noise is not adequately measured. Emissions and ultrafine particle pollution aren't measured at all.

Many local residents individually or in small groups have raised concerns. In 2020, Farnborough Noise Group was established to try and speak with one voice and to evaluate the technical information being sent out by the airport, the Civil Aviation Authority and the Department for Transport. While there is an airport committee (the Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee - FACC) that should be holding the airport to account, what we have seen is that the committee is ineffective because it is paid for and controlled by the airport. Over the past four years there have been many challenges and questions to the airport and the FACC. In response, the public (and FNG) have been progressively excluded from FACC meetings and questions that have been raised have been ignored.

Farnborough Noise Group has provided regular updates and impartial fact-based information to the public and to 65 parish, borough and county councils who asked to be kept informed. The group has a website (www.farnboroughnoise.org) and a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/farnboroughnoise). Of the 65 councils that receive newsletters, 31 responded to Rushmoor Borough Council's consultation on the airport's expansion application. The council contacted a further 57 councils and 10 responded. The number of responses to the application is surprisingly low, given the impact it will have on hundreds of thousands of people in these constituencies. 2,200 members of the public took the time to submit a written objection to the application. With local elections (and a general election) coming up, the airport has become an election issue. There have been large demonstrations at the airport (supported by Greta Thunberg and Chris Packham) and the situation has been reported in the national and international press.

Insufficient information was submitted by the airport in the planning application so the decision on it has been delayed by Rushmoor Borough Council until after the May elections. And this takes us to the reason for contacting you.

The airport claims that it generates revenue and jobs for the Rushmoor area (we dispute the business case provided by the airport as it excludes things like reduction in property prices). The issue is that the harm caused extends much further than Rushmoor. For example, noise disturbance of the new concentrated flightpaths impacts people many miles away. Some of these areas are places like the National Park. Much of the additional information requested by the airport only relates to Rushmoor and very little information has been requested that addresses the concerns of the public in other boroughs. There is information about the planning application that was submitted (www.farnboroughnoise.org/fal-expansion). Farnborough Noise Group will be evaluating the additional information provided by the airport. If you would like a discussion, or if you have any questions, please email farnboroughnoise@gmail.com. If your council hasn't done so yet, please do respond to the planning application on behalf of your constituents. <https://publicaccess.rushmoor.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S3QRKNNMGVB00>.

Councils consulted by RBC	Response to application	Councils consulted by RBC	Response to application
Alford Parish Council		Lindford Parish Council	
Alton Town Council		Liss Parish Council	
Artington Parish Council		Long Sutton Parish Council	Objected
Arun District Council		Mattingley Parish Council	
Ash Parish Council Clerk Of The Council		Medstead Parish Council	
Basing & Lychpit Parish Council	Objected	Munstead And Tuesley Parish Council	Objected
Basingstoke And Deane Borough Council		Mytchett & Deepcut Parish Council	Objected
Beech Parish Council		Newnham Parish Council	
Bentley Parish Council	Objected	Normandy Parish Council	
Bentworth Parish Council		Ockham Parish Council	
Binsted Parish Council	Objected	Odiham Parish Council	
Bisley Parish Council		Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council	
Blackwater And Hawley Parish Council		Peper Harow Parish Council	Objected
Bramley Parish Council		Petersfield Town Council	
Bramshill Borough Council		Pirbright Parish Council	Objected
Bramshott And Liphook Parish Council		Preston Candover & Nutley Parish Council	
Burghclere Parish Council	Neutral	Puttenham Parish Council	
Buriton Parish Council		Ripley Parish Council	
Burpham & Wepham Parish Council	Objected	Rotherwick Parish Council	
Bushbridge Parish Council		Rowlands Castle Parish Council	
Chawton Parish Council		Seale And Sands Parish Council	Objected
Chichester District Council		Selborne Parish Council	Objected
Chiddingfold Parish Council		Send Parish Council	Objected
Chobham Parish Council		Shackelford Parish Council	
Church Crookham Parish Council	Objected	Shalden Parish Council	
Churt Parish Council	Objected	Shalford, Peasmarsh And Chilworth Community	
Clanfield Parish Council		Sheet Parish Council	Objected
Colemore and Priors Dean Parish	Objected	Shere Parish Council	
Compton Parish Council		South Warnborough Parish Council	
Cranleigh Parish Council		St Martha Parish Council	Objected
Crandall Parish Council		Steep Parish Council	
Dockenfield Parish Council		Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council	Neutral
Dogmersfield Parish Council	Objected	Stroud Parish Council	
Dummer Parish Council		Surrey County Council	Objected
Dunsfold Parish Council		Surrey Heath Borough Council	
Earley Town Council	Neutral	Thursley Parish Council	
East Hampshire Borough Council	Objected	Tilford Parish Council	Objected
East Hampshire District Council	Objected	Tongham Parish Council	
East Horsley Parish Council		Twyford Parish Council	Neutral
East Meon Parish Council		Upton Grey Parish Council	
East Tisted Parish Council		Wanborough Parish Council	
East Woodhay Parish Council	Objected	Waverley Borough Council	Objected
Effingham Parish Council		West Berkshire Borough Council	Neutral
Elstead Parish Council		West Clandon Parish Council	
Elvetham Parish Council		West End Parish Council	Objected
Eversely Parish Council		West Horsley Parish Council	
Ewhurst & Ellens Green Parish Council		West Ilsley Parish Council	Objected
Ewshot Parish Council	Objected	West Tisted Parish Council	
Farnham Town Council	Objected	Whitchurch Parish Council	Objected
Farringdon Parish Council	Objected	Whitehill Town Council	
Four Marks Parish Council		Wield Parish Council	
Frensham Parish Council		Winchfield Parish Council	
Froxfield And Privett Parish Council		Witley And Milford Parish Council	
Froyle Parish Council	Objected	Woking Borough Council	
Godalming Town Council	Objected	Wokingham Borough Council	Thinking
Grayshott Parish Council		Wonersh Parish Council	
Greatham Parish Council		Worldham Parish Council	
Grey Well Parish Council		Worplesdon Parish Council	
Guildford Borough Council		Yateley Town Council	Supported
Hambleton Parish Council			
Hart District Council	Objected	Other organisations	
Hartley Wintney Parish Council		Ecologist Officer	
Hascombe Parish Council		Environment Agency	Neutral
Haslemere Town Council	Objected	Church Crookham Junior School	Objected
Hawkey Parish Council		Farnham North	Objected
Headley Parish Council	Objected	Fleet & Church Crookham Society	Objected
Heckfield Parish Council		Hampshire Branch of CPRE	Objected
Hook Parish Council		South Downs National Park	Objected
Hordean Parish Council		Farnborough College of Technology	Supported
Hungerford Town Council	Neutral	Hampshire Chamber of Commerce	Supported
Kingsley Parish Council		Environmental Health	
Langrish Parish Council		Natural England	