



## **PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**18 June 2007**

Shadow transport minister acknowledges Bristol airport is at capacity in meeting with campaigners

Shadow Minister for Transport Julian Brazier MP told representatives from the Stop Bristol Airport Expansion (SBAE) campaign in a private meeting earlier this evening that it was clear that the local transport infrastructure could not support further expansion by Bristol International Airport.

“It is clear that there are huge infrastructure constraints on Bristol airport’s expansion. The airport is at capacity in terms of the road network,” he said.

The group said they had had an informative and constructive meeting with Mr Brazier and felt that the Minister had taken on board local concerns about BIA’s expansion.

“Mr Brazier clearly appreciated the impact the airport’s expansion would have on the quality of life for local communities in terms of noise and traffic congestion, and our concerns over the erosion of green belt land by the airport’s development and how this would be detrimental to the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty”, said SBAE spokesperson Georgie Bigg.

“He also took on board the fact that as the airport grows, people will have to travel further and further from Bristol to find tranquillity.”

He assured the group that Conservative Party policy planned to see growth in aviation constrained through taxation and throughput from current national levels of 5.5% to fuel efficiency levels, currently at 1-2%.

The campaigners were also pleased to hear Mr Brazier acknowledge the contribution of aviation in producing CO2 emissions: “We have a firm commitment to shift the total burden of tax away from families to raise taxes on CO2 emissions, of which aviation is a significant part,” he said.

**ENDS**

PHOTO:

<http://www.stopbia.com/files/shadowtransportminister.jpg>

PHOTO CAPTION: (Left to right) Julian Brazier with SBAE representatives Georgie Bigg and Hilary Burn.

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For further information on the Stop Bristol Airport Expansion campaign, visit: [www.stopbia.com](http://www.stopbia.com)