



PRESS RELEASE

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Public must act now or lose local voice on major new developments

The public must act now before they lose their right to have a meaningful say on where new developments are built say the Stop Bristol Airport Expansion campaign, as it announces a major call to action today over Government proposals to change the planning rules.

The campaigners are calling on the public to protest over the latest planning policy before it's too late and individuals are left with no voice on where airport runways, new roads, large incinerators, nuclear power stations, major industries and supermarkets are sited.

Stop Bristol Airport Expansion want the Government to rethink its latest proposals [1] to make sure that decisions on new developments such as the airport's expansion plans must take into account people's views and the impact on the environment.

SBAE campaigners are asking the public to write to The Planning White Paper Team to object to changes in the Planning White Paper.

SBAE campaigner Georgie Bigg said:

"It is crucial that the public opposes the changes recommended in the Planning White Paper if they don't want to lose their right to stop the Government forcing developments such as those proposed for Bristol airport on us even if we don't want or need them.

"The planning system is the best way communities such as ours can ensure local plans are good for local people, for local business and for the environment.

"This White Paper is policy making at its worst – it will destroy local communities and exacerbate climate change. The Government needs to rethink its proposals and introduce a planning system that allows people a say on the decisions that affect them."

To take action and for more information, members of the public should visit: www.stopbia.com and follow the "Take action on the Planning White Paper" link, or www.planningdisaster.co.uk and follow the "take action" and "protect your rights" links.

Alternatively, individuals can write directly to: Planning Reform Team, Communities and Local Government, Zone 3/J2, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU, Fax: 020 7944 3919.

SBAE is part of a coalition, representing 2.3 million people and including AirportWatch, the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Friends of the Earth, the Civic Trust, Council for National Parks, enoughenough.org, The Grasslands Trust, the New Economics Foundation, the Ramblers' Association, RSPB, Transport 2000, UKRIGS, The Wildlife Trusts and the Woodland Trust, which intends to fight and defeat changes to planning policy over the coming months.

ENDS

For media enquiries contact Sara Grimes on: 07891 982 663

Notes for Editors:

[1]The Planning White Paper can be downloaded from

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/669/PlanningforaSustainableFutureWhitePaper_id1510669.pdf

2) See Friends of the Earth's report '*A Better Plan: an alternative view of the land use planning system*' at http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/better_planning_system.pdf