



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Campaigners announce series of public meetings to oppose airport expansion

The Stop Bristol Airport Expansion campaign (SBAE) has organised a series of public meetings for local people to find out more about how Bristol International airport's (BIA) expansion plans are likely to affect their communities and what action they can take to oppose these plans.

BIA has now delayed a major planning application to North Somerset from last autumn to sometime later this year, but has in the meantime submitted a proposal to build a massive 'walkway' under the heading of permitted development, which requires no formal planning permission.

However, SBAE campaigners believe this is "expansion by stealth" and are calling on the airport to submit a full planning application for the structure, a massive construction, which appears to create an extension to the existing terminal building.

SBAE spokesman Jeremy Birch said: "We believe that BIA has in fact applied for a terminal extension by stealth to push through further growth without formal planning permission.

"The 'walkway' that BIA are applying for in fact will be about the same size as a terrace of 56 1930's houses, with a lounge area equivalent to around the total floor space of 15 of these houses – a massive new construction."

The meetings will take place from 7.30-9pm at:

Churchill, 28 February – Churchill War Memorial Hall

Felton, 5 March – Felton Village Hall

Yatton, 12 March – Hangstones Pavillion

Speakers:

Hilary Burn – Parish Councils Airport Association

Georgie Bigg – Campaign to Protect Rural England (North Somerset)

The meetings are open to all and will be an opportunity for people to discuss these issues and more.

Bristol airport plans to expand to a throughput of 9 million passengers by 2015, or possibly much sooner given the recent levels of growth.

For more information, visit www.stopbia.com

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