



PRESS RELEASE

14 June 2010

Bristol airport – the real fight starts now: campaigners launch fundraising campaign

The fight against Bristol Airport's major expansion plans is far from over Stop Bristol Airport Expansion (SBAE) said today at the launch of its new fundraising campaign.

The campaigners are asking the public to donate to a fighting fund to pay legal costs to continue challenge the flawed decision to allow the airport to expand.

North Somerset Council's approval of Bristol Airport's planning application in May has now been referred to the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles, because some of the development is on green belt land, and because of its climate change impacts. If the Secretary of State doesn't grant a public enquiry, the campaigners plan to mount a legal challenge on the basis that there is no current policy to support the decision to approve the plans.

SBAE have been advised that the Bristol airport application is open to legal challenge because it is based on the 2003 Government aviation policy recently ruled by a high court judge as out of date because it is not compatible with the 2008 Climate Change Act. This could be the first test case for the new coalition Government's policy on regional airport expansion.

SBAE spokesperson Hilary Burn said:

"We have everything left to fight for according to our legal adviser, who is one of the best campaigning lawyers in the country. It's crucial that we maintain this legal support, which is why we are asking for more financial support from local residents.

"The alternative doesn't bear thinking about. The recent 'no-fly' time due to the Icelandic ash cloud has demonstrated very clearly just how huge the noise and traffic impacts caused by the Bristol airports flights are. If this development is allowed to go ahead we are facing an airport the size of Luton on our doorstep.

"Despite our having submitted really strong evidence, North Somerset councillors chose to ignore over 5,000 individual objections plus objections from Bristol City and B&NES councils, local health authorities and many other significant organisations. We believe their decision is flawed: they have given the green light for car parks in the green belt yet at the same time are fighting to protect green belt land from housing developments."

To make a donation to the Stop Bristol Airport Expansion campaign, please use the Paypal donation link at www.stopbia.com or send a cheque made out to 'SBAE' to Stop Bristol



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For more information visit: www.stopbia.com

Notes

Bristol Airport's application to increase passenger numbers to 10 million by 2019 would lead to a 125% increase in CO2 emissions from flights at the airport. The UK is committed under the Climate Change Act to cutting CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050.

A recent High Court ruling on plans for a new runway at Heathrow Airport found that the former government's 2003 Air Transport White Paper failed to comply with the requirements of the Climate Change Act. The new coalition government has subsequently ruled out new runways at Heathrow, Stansted and Gatwick, on environmental grounds.

Plans to expand Bristol Airport were based on the same out-dated Air Transport White Paper – which outlined the potential for development at regional airports across the UK. According to the High Court ruling, the economic and capacity issues must now be reconsidered bearing in mind the impacts on climate change.

Stop Bristol Airport Expansion Limited

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