

Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign

GACC

Campaign Office
Stan Hill
Charlwood
Surrey RH6 OEP

01293 863 369
www.gacc.org.uk
gacc@btconnect.com

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Airport short-list

GACC has always recognised that it is inevitable that Gatwick will be on the short-list of airports where a new runway might be built but we are confident that when the practical problems are examined in detail it will be rejected. Full details of the disadvantages of Gatwick are given on our website

www.gacc.org.uk/the-runway-issue

In the past few weeks Gatwick Airport Ltd (GAL) have been ramping up the sales hype. But to keep things in proportion certain basic facts need to be remembered:

- the number of passengers at Gatwick is still no higher than in 2007;¹
- the number of flights at Gatwick is actually 7% lower than in 2000;²
- the claim by GAL that far fewer people would be affected by noise from a new runway than at Heathrow ignores the fact that aircraft noise can be more annoying in rural than in urban areas;³
- their claim that a new runway would only cost £5 billion is misleading because it refers to the close parallel proposal which would add comparatively little to UK airport capacity;⁴
- the GAL claim that a new runway at Gatwick 'would have minimal environmental impact' ignores climate change damage; and also ignores the urbanisation issue - 40,000 new houses, equivalent to a new town the size of Crawley - which is beginning to worry many councils, including some which gave provisional support when they thought that a new runway was just a strip of concrete.⁵

¹ 35.2 million in 12 months to end October 2013.

² 243,000 in 12 months to end October 2013 compared to 261,000 in 2000.

³ See www.gacc.org.uk/the-runway-issue Noise Correction

⁴ Stewart Wingate. Today Programme 17 November 2013

⁵ See www.gacc.org.uk/the-runway-issue A New Town the Size of Crawley

GACC is the main environmental body concerned with Gatwick. Founded in 1968, we have as members nearly 100 Borough, District and Parish Councils and environmental groups covering about a twenty miles radius from the airport. Our committee, elected annually, represents all areas. Because we rely on rational argument and put forward constructive solutions we have had strong support in Parliament and at every level of government.