

Press Release 10th March 2014

A very small bribe!

Gatwick Airport has offered an annual payment of £1,000 to about 4,000 houses most seriously affected by noise from a new runway.

Brendon Sewill, chairman of GACC, described this as 'a very small bribe'.

- On the measurement of noise favoured by the EU, the number of people affected by noise from a new runway, would be 48,000 (compared to 10,000 at present);¹
- £1,000 would be tiny compared to the loss of house values;
- The payment would not be made until after the new runway were built;
- It would do nothing to compensate anyone affected by the new flight paths currently being planned;²
- The payment would be small compared to the deterioration in the quality of life of hundreds of thousands of people – the urbanisation caused by 40,000 new houses, loss of countryside, pressure on schools, hospitals, road and rail.³

¹ This figure for the 54 Lden contour is given in the GAL submission to the Airports Commission 19 July 2013, Table 8 page 31, and includes the 5,000 houses under construction in the Crawley NE sector.
http://www.gatwickairport.com/PublicationFiles/business_and_community/all_public_publications/transforming_gatwick/Gatwick_Airport_Proposals_for_additional_longterm_runway_capacity19Jul2013.pdf

² See www.gacc.org.uk/latest-news

³ The figure of 40,000 new houses is given in a report by consultants commissioned by West Sussex County Council and the Gatwick Diamond business association.

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.