

Campaigning for a better environment
for the whole area around Gatwick

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Initial reaction to Heathrow decision

Hundreds of thousands of people across Surrey, Sussex and Kent will breathe a sigh of relief that the threat of more noise and more pollution, more traffic jams on the M25, more standing on the trains, and massive development despoiling this beautiful area has been lifted.

Brendon Sewill, chairman of GACC, said: 'We have great sympathy with all those who will be adversely affected around Heathrow but we are glad to see that the Government will introduce legally binding noise targets, and confirm that fewer people will be affected by noise by 2030 than are today. We note that meeting air quality legal requirements will be made a condition of planning approval for Heathrow - that should rule out any judicial review on this issue.'

GACC will remain on guard against any attempt to revert to Gatwick. That is unlikely as the whole planning procedure would have to start again from the beginning, adding many years to the process.

Sewill added: 'We are delighted that Ministers and civil servants have not been influenced by Gatwick's £40 million advertising and lobbying campaign. In contrast over the past three years GACC has quietly and rationally pointed out the disadvantages of Gatwick, and we are glad that this has proved effective.'

GACC will be examining the conditions to be applied to Heathrow, and will seek to ensure that similar conditions are applied at Gatwick.

GACC, founded in 1968, has as paid-up members over 60 councils and over 40 community groups. We have built a reputation for sound judgement and reliable information and thus have the support of all local Members of Parliament.