



# FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

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Dear Sirs

**Re: Stansted Airport planning application UTT/18/0460/FUL**

I am writing to you on behalf of Felsted Parish Council in respect to the planning application by Stansted Airport reference number UTT/18/0460/FUL.

We understand that it is Uttlesford District Council's (UDC) intent to consider this application at District level only. **We are writing to express our concern and surprise at this decision and to call for UDC to seek a central government review of this application, and a national determination**, through referral to the Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

It is wrong for this major transport infrastructure application to be considered by Uttlesford District Council, rather than those responsible for national planning for air transport, where it would receive appropriate scrutiny against national planning policy and targets for community impact, capacity planning and focus, in relation to the third runway at Heathrow, and of course consideration of nationally set targets for air pollution. The application is cynical in its avoidance of national scrutiny. In foreshortening the forecast passenger total by a year the airport has ducked under the level at which national scrutiny would be mandatory. **This is against the spirit if not the letter of policy.** It is not enough for Stansted and UDC to simply state that national policy has been considered, the decision must be made at a national level, with the appropriate levels of expertise within the decision making process.

Uttlesford must not allow themselves to be pushed into reviewing and approving this extremely complicated application in a matter of 6 weeks, including over a holiday period. **This is little more time than would be given to consideration of a single loft extension.**

The last public meeting on this is set for 28<sup>th</sup> March, with a deadline of 3<sup>rd</sup> April for comments. With the Easter holiday period in between, this gives **one working day leading up to a public holiday weekend** from the public event to closure of comments. In addition, we have just been invited to a Parish Briefing session on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Again, given the holiday weekend, where Councillors will be taking extended holidays, this gives us **3 working days** to take the content of the briefing back to Council, consider it against the thousands of pages of the application, compile our response, have it agreed at council level, and submit it. **This is wrong and clearly impossible for Parish Councils to include any consideration of information supplied on**

**the 26<sup>th</sup> within a response. It is beyond belief that UDC believe this process to be constitutional and, by forcing Parish Councils into this position, you are ensuring that we will also have to work outside of our consultative processes to be able to respond in time.** When considering current passenger numbers of c.25million, the current approved passenger level of 35million, and the current expansion rate at Stansted, the 35 million level will not be reached for many years. **There is therefore no reason for this application to receive a 6 week 'fast track' approval status, other than to prevent it receiving appropriate levels of scrutiny.**

This application simply has to be referred to the Secretary of State for consideration at national level. Communities and Parish Councils must also be given sufficient time to actually read through, digest and consider, the thousands of pages of documents. 6 weeks is simply not enough. When set against the meeting schedule of most Parish Councils it means that Parishes will have but a single public meeting to consider the matter.

We are not against the principle of efficient use of runway capacity at Stansted, but we do want to ensure that the impact is managed and the interests and concerns of communities listened to, respected and acted upon. **With Stansted's noise complaints showing a 20 fold increase, and no action taken, there is little sign of this approach at present.**

It is, in summary, wrong, unconstitutional and irresponsible for this application to be considered in the proposed manner.

We request your urgent confirmation that Uttlesford District Council will be seeking a national determination and are copying this to The Rt Hon Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for his intervention.

Yours faithfully



Diane Smith  
Clerk to Felsted Parish Council

Copy:

Rt Hon Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Kemi Badenoch MP  
District Cllr Alan Mills UDC  
District Cllr Marie Felton UDC