

# CHARLWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Peter Barclay, Clerk to the Council  
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## **Charlwood Parish Council response to The Airports Commission discussion paper 5 on Aircraft Noise.**

Charlwood parish, which includes the communities of Charlwood and Hookwood, lies immediately adjacent to the north of Gatwick airport.

Most of the parish lies in the green belt, with the village surrounded by farming and agricultural land and can therefore be described as rural. Moreover in our parish we have a fine Grade 1 listed Norman church and over 80 listed buildings which are well cared for and are an important heritage. We would like to emphasise that although so close to the airport we are a rural village community and not an urban or suburban conurbation. The Charlwood Parish Council strongly supports the GACC initial representation that aircraft noise in rural areas causes more annoyance than in urban areas.

We welcome the discussion paper on noise which sets out clearly the many issues relating to disturbance from aircraft noise, the different methods of measuring this noise and recognizes the detrimental impact of aviation noise on individuals and communities.

We recognize and welcome that over the past 20 years aircraft have become quieter, but this has been counterbalanced by the increase in numbers. We welcome recognition [2, page 22] that no noise measurement reflects accurately what is actually experienced in number / magnitude.

Regarding the methods of measuring noise for local residents who live with constant noise, it is to a certain extent academic, as none make a difference to the actual noise just as a patient, regardless of whether their temperature is measured in Centigrade or Fahrenheit, still feels ill.

But we support the view that Leq contours based on averaging noise are inadequate (other than for annual comparison) at assessing onset or actual disturbance to our community. This is particularly so in a village setting where a whole community's daily activity straddles the cut off point of a particular contour. Basing noise insulation schemes or mitigation for blight on these contours is divisive in a rural village setting.

We are opposed to any method that averages noise at night. Noise from aircraft at night, and on the airfield disturbs residents.

The Australian N70 method has its limitations in that it does not measure peak or duration of an event.

The Parish Council are disappointed that the Discussion Paper makes no mention of ground noise. Charlwood suffers from ground noise from aircraft maintenance, engine testing, taxi-ing aircraft etc. We are concerned that the 2012 Gatwick master plan sets out that even with the existing runway, ground noise is likely to increase about 5db in parts of our village.

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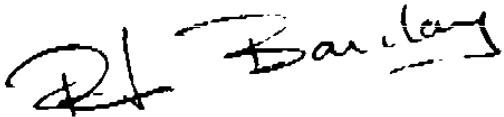
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Any new runway at Gatwick would make ground noise in Charlwood worse, because the maintenance area is likely to be on the north of the existing runway – close to Charlwood. This is recognized in the plans submitted by Gatwick Airport Ltd on 19 July paragraph 6.15.

The suggestions described in the Discussion paper for mitigation for increased noise through measures such as dispersal, respite or CDA are not relevant to Charlwood or Hookwood.

We support reducing noise at source with the manufacture and use of less noisy aircraft, whether taking off or landing. We support action to reduce the noise caused by aircraft maneuvering on the airfield, and we wish to see a reduction in night flights.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Barclay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Barclay  
Clerk to the Council