

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a resident of Thanet in East Kent where as you must be aware we recently lost our local airport, Manston International, when it was closed by its current owner. This caused the immediate loss of nearly 150 jobs and has been a terrible blow to the local economy and to the amenity of the area.

Many of us used the services from this airport, indeed I used the KLM service to fly to Copenhagen, Istanbul, Amsterdam, Bordeaux and Muscat on multiple occasions. We are left now with a long drive and extended check-in times at Gatwick or Heathrow. This is a nuisance to say the least.

In Thanet we cannot understand how there can be consideration for another London Airport when we already have a perfectly good one, with good transport links and a long runway capable of taking the biggest planes. The boost to our economy would be huge and is desperately needed in this area which has few jobs. We are astounded that a grant has been made to Lydd airport to extend its runway when we already have an under used one at Manston – and Lydd is difficult to reach along minor country roads where Manston has dual carriageway almost to the door!

We recognise that passenger flights are not going to be the solution for the longevity of Manston but it also boasted an excellent freight facility with rapid turnaround. Surely this could relieve some of the congestion at the major London airports? A good many other ideas have been floated for Manston – an international heritage centre for historic aircraft, an engineering hub for the recycling of old aircraft ..... There is a long list.

And we have concerns about the loss of a safe landing facility for distressed aircraft – with an approach mostly over the sea.

Please bear these thoughts in mind in your deliberations – there are a very large number of people in Kent with the same thoughts.

Kind Regards

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

Director and Chair

Concrete Solutions

[Redacted Contact Information]