

Good morning

I am writing to you to express my views on Manston Airport.

I believe Manston is vital for Thanet, I hear so much about how the Airport is not viable, yet it has been proved that the previous owners do not want the Airport, they appear to have other agenda's for it. Riveroak have said they want Aircraft Maintenance & Cargo as its main source of income for the time being. Whilst I appreciate that may not employ as many people to start, it will bring in much needed jobs to the area. If they can get more Cargo to use the Airport, then that will need many staff. The Airport has a lot of potential space in which to expand freight sheds etc, with hauliers then using the airport as a base that can only mean more employment for the area.

The main Airports ie Heathrow & Gatwick have very limited flight spots left, this can be exploited by Manston to free up more slots by taking the Cargo away from them. We are at a crisis point with more runways needed in the South East & only to get worse as the population grows. To close the Airport for good, when it has one of the best runways in the Country would be a National disgrace. There are options for the Airport as I have stated above, then the high speed rail link when it is finished would serve the Airport, then it would make it even quicker for passengers from say London to use the Airport.

Manston has great road links already in place, with the rail also I do not see how Manston could not relieve the pressures of the London Airports. There are dual carriageways & Motorways to the Airport, just because the Airport is the other side of Kent, does not mean you can not get there quick from London, as proved by the Save Manston Group who have timed various car journeys to see how quick you can get there. This option must be cheaper to the UK as a whole as we would not have to spend billions to make an instant impact. The other options will take many years, more disruption for families who would have to move out as a part of the expansion plans for at least two of the major Airports. It was considered a well equipped Airport for emergency's, there is no where left in Kent that an Aircraft can land on a runway in such an event. Given that the Airspace over Kent is one of the busiest, it seems strange that this fact alone is being overlooked!

Cargo operators have said they would go back to Manston, as the turn a round times are very good, access is good & saves them a lot of money by landing at Manston. The Airport has the backing of Thanet Council & the vast majority of the population. Kent County Council has also backed the Airport & only yesterday Dover District Council has backed the Airport. East Kent is a deprived area that needs investment badly, yet it has something that can help it be the area it should be, this being the Airport.

I urge you to give serious consideration to making Manston part of the solution to the UK's Airspace and back the Airport to remain open, as we can not afford to let such an important piece of aviation infrastructure to go to waste. We also do not

need more housing as that appears the only option the owner wants to use it for. Sir Roger Gale is fighting to retain this important asset in Parliament & urge the Commission to look at every possible runway we have here in the UK the same way.

Regards

