

PRESS RELEASE

29 August 2019

For immediate use

South London to debate Heathrow and City Airport expansion plans

Two of the leading campaign groups opposed to expansion at Heathrow and City Airport's will hold a joint public meeting on Wednesday 4th September to discuss each of the airports' Masterplans open for consultation (1).

The No 3rd Runway Coalition (2), the leading group fighting Heathrow expansion have teamed up with HACAN East, the leading group opposing London City Airport expansion, to provide residents with the reality of what life would be like if these two Masterplans were ever enacted. Florence Eshalomi, Greater London Assembly Member for Lambeth and Southwark, will be the guest speaker. A local campaign group Plane Hell Action, based in Southwark, will also be on hand on the night. The meeting takes place at St. Marks, opposite Oval underground station.

Expansion at Heathrow means 2760,000 more flights per year flying over south London and hundreds of thousands of south Londoners impacted by Heathrow aircraft noise for the first time. This is in addition to the 476,000 at present. It also means 7-9 million more tonnes of carbon emissions per year, as well as more congestion of London's already congested road and public transport network and the loss of thousands of homes. Southwark Council are opposed to Heathrow expansion and are members of the No 3rd Runway Coalition (3). The Heathrow consultation closes on Friday 13th September.

Expansion at London City Airport means 40,000 extra planes per year flying to and from the airport, plus the loss of a whole day's break from City Airport planes flying over south London, as the airport is currently closed for a 24-hour period from Saturday - Sunday lunchtime. In response to their proposal to remove this break, Hacan East have launched a new campaign 'Defend Your Weekend', which has seen over 30,000 residents sign up. This consultation closes on Friday 20th September.

Rob Barnstone, Coordinator of the No 3rd Runway Coalition, said:

"Heathrow expansion would be a real nightmare for south Londoners. That is if they can sleep over the 276,000 extra planes per year using the airport with expansion. It is scandalous that the proposals would put millions more carbon emissions per year into our atmosphere at a time when we know have legally binding targets to reduce emissions to a net-zero target by 2050. The proposal should be scrapped not just because of the negative impacts to south London but for the good of our country."

John Stewart, Chair of Hacan East, said:

"This is at best a third-rate consultation. The simple fact is that a lot of people will have no way of knowing that the airport is proposing a near-doubling of flights over their heads."

"The proposal is a kick in the teeth for south London. We are encouraging residents to Defend Your Weekend. Join our campaign right away and so NO to more noise. We need you!"

Information about the plans and advice on responding to the consultations will be available on the night.

ENDS.

Notes:

1. Flyer for the meeting attached to this email
2. No 3rd Runway Coalition information
https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/8b8ad1_b4be8becfb7245de94fab1c2e2ef04f2.pdf?index=true
3. Southwark Council joins No 3rd Runway Coalition
<https://www.southwarknews.co.uk/news/heathrow-southwark-council-joins-groups-opposing-airport-expansion-over-emissions-fears/>
4. Heathrow Airport Consultation website
<https://aec.heathrowconsultation.com/>
5. Hacan East 'Defend Your Weekend' campaign
<http://www.hacaneast.org.uk/news>
6. London City Airport Consultation website
<https://www.londoncityairport.com/corporate/airport-development/airport-master-plan>

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