

## **SPOKEN REPRESENTATION BY CLLR ALAN DEAN ON STAL APPLICATION AT EXTRAORDINARY PLANNING COMMITTEE ON 14 NOVEMBER 2018**

Mr Chairman, Colleagues, Members of the Public

My name is Alan Dean. I represent Stansted Mountfitchet on the District Council. I am here today to speak on behalf of my constituents and people throughout the district.

Stansted Airport is a mixed blessing. It brings employment and pleasure to many. People are proud to work there. Others suffer from aircraft noise, disturbed sleep and congestion on their roads and railways.

So where is the balance between these conflicts?

For you to make a judgment on that balance you have to have all the evidence. Unfortunately, the committee hasn't been given all the evidence describing what the best use of Stansted's runway would look like. The airport owner hasn't even owned up to how many passengers could fit through a best use Stansted.

I was dismayed to read yesterday that the 2008 permission for 35 million passengers was described by the former owner BAA as "best use". Today's airport owner is performing the same smoke and mirrors magical act of creeping expansion by stealth. Please do not fall for this trick. It is worse than stealth; certainly not frank and honest.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2014, I wrote to a local newspaper about another big local issue; the infamous "Hellsenham" new town and Uttlesford's Local Plan. I wrote as follows:

*Uttlesford's Local Plan contains no credible answer to how road traffic will get in and out of Hellsenham. Essex admits it hasn't yet worked out the scale of the problem, never mind a proper solution.*

That Local Plan hit the dust the following December because the homework this Council should have done was shown to be just like the smoke and mirrors story before you today; it was deficient and undeliverable.

Doubling the throughput at Stansted Airport – for doubling is what real best use is – will have a far greater impact on this and neighbouring districts, especially East Herts, than even two "Hellsenhams".

The Highways Agency and Essex are currently proposing a few tactical improvements at Junction 8 on the M11. They will happen regardless of

this airport expansion proposal. So why do some people say the airport must expand to get motorway improvements paid for?

Where are the solutions to existing road congestion and air pollution in Stansted Mountfitchet? Where is the plan for roads through Stansted Mountfitchet, Takeley, Bishop's Stortford and many more places? There isn't one? Why? Because you are being told it will all come right on the night. Just as we were told Hellsenham would all come right on the night when someone had got around to thinking up solutions.

And on that occasion, it was obvious to a skilled Planning Inspector that a deliverable solution did not exist. He threw out the Local Plan.

The current promise by Stansted Airport Limited of a pot of money for local road improvements is of no value unless there are practical solutions available. If there is a practical solution to Church Road, Stansted, its bendy railway bridge and its traffic calming obstacle race, please demand to see it.

There is no plan to fix local roads and much more.

Mr Chairman, major planning for airport growth is a strategic, national matter. The input of a Local Planning Authority, in this case, Uttlesford District Council, is crucial to ensuring matters such as local road congestion is addressed.

Meanwhile, the Secretary of State at Westminster is sitting back and watching what Uttlesford decides before intervening. Why? Because the applicant has pulled a fast one and lopped off a year or two at most from his forward projections of expansion to pretend that best use at Stansted stops at 43 million passengers.

Mr Chairman, committee members, this will be the fifth slice of expansion in the past 30-plus years. There will be more to come. Please force the planning system to do the job properly and comprehensively this time by NOT approving this application today. It's not fit for approval.

Thank you.

**Alan Dean**