

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Councillor Alan Dean: Member for Stansted North**



**Please reply to home address: 49 Recreation Ground, Stansted, Essex, CM24 8BD**

Cllr Neil Reeve  
Cabinet Member for Economy & Investment  
Uttlesford District Council

Our ref:AD27021601

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16<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Neil

May I firstly congratulate you on taking on the mantle of the Uttlesford economy; a major challenge in these unstable times.

I am writing to you about the economy based at and around Stansted Airport, which does, of course, extend well beyond the District of Uttlesford.

Last Monday morning I attended a protest at the airport by people concerned that the Covid-19-related collapse in passenger throughput at Stansted has put many jobs at risk. The protest, which was arranged by the Unite union, was specifically directed at easyJet's proposal to uproot its base from Stansted to elsewhere and, as I understand it, simply to use the runway here to pick up and return passengers. There will be ground-based job losses if the proposal is carried through. I expect this retrenchment will have knock-on implications for business and the economy beyond the airport's boundary in this district and beyond. Other airport jobs are under threat.

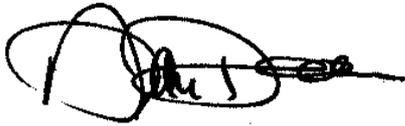
Whilst at the demonstration, I spoke to two people. The principle organiser is Claire Lees, Unite's regional organiser. Mark Barter is the union's organiser at Stansted. You can see a masked Claire Lees with me (also in disguise!) in this linked article by the *Bishop's Stortford Independent*: <https://bit.ly/2Y7oA74>

Unite would like to meet with the Council, and I would be keen to join you and others on a Zoom call in the near future. Owing to the airport's significant sub-regional reach, we may wish to act as a catalyst for wider discussions, but my advice would be a first step with UDC Members and officers as the host authority. It was suggested to me that UDC might help to bring together employees and employers. It may be politic, at least as a first step, to inform easyJet and MAG of our intentions to respond to Unite's request for a dialogue.

(cont.)

I look forward to hearing from you at an early date, as I am sure we are all in a fast-moving situation. I am copying this letter to Claire Lees for information. I will also send it to Sinead Corr at the *Bishop's Stortford Independent* to keep the newspaper apprised.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Dean', with a large, loopy flourish on the left side.

Alan Dean  
**Member for Stansted North**

Cc: Claire Lees, Unite  
Sinead Corr, Bishop's Stortford Independent