

Green News

November/December 2021

Aircraft Noise



Stephen Clark campaigning with Caroline Lucas.

In a local survey conducted last year by the No Third Runway Coalition:

- Almost 80% of respondents were positive about the reduction in flights since lockdown.
- Over 82% said they had experienced positive health benefits.
- 62% said that their family had better sleep patterns.

People said:

"Our house feels peaceful and our children can enjoy the sound of birds singing throughout the day..."

"It has been peaceful most of the time and air quality is much improved. It has had a positive impact on my mental health."

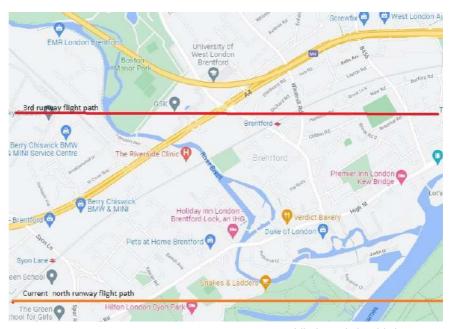
"I can enjoy FRESH air in the garden and local parks."

'BUT the noise and pollution is creeping back and we are threatened with it getting a whole lot worse,' says Stephen Clark.

• The Tory government is still committed to a Third Runway at Heathrow increasing flights by over 250,000 a year.

I've spoken to so many people in our area who have really enjoyed the respite COVID has given us from aircraft noise - but its not staying like that and its likely to get far worse.' says Green Party campaigner Stephen Clark.

- Even without another runway, new technology will allow additional flight paths and another 25,000 flights a year.
- Stop Press: Budget cuts Air Passenger Duty by 50% on domestic flights. This is likely to result in another 400,000 passenger journeys.



Likely path for third runway.

Enough is enough! We want less rather than more aircraft over Brentford & Boston Manor

Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions

 The Government has recently consulted on its proposals for **Jet Zero** aviation by 2050.

'None of these proposals bear looking at' says Stephen Clark

- Pre Covid 2019 emissions were the highest ever for the UK, 39 million tonnes of CO2 just for outgoing flights. This doesn't take into account the even worse damage caused by emissions at high altitude that may cause even more damage to our atmosphere.
- One Tory option only claims to take this to 21 million tonnes by 2050.
- The second claims to reduce emissions to zero but relies on entirely unrealistic

assumptions about technological progress.

Under any of the options the Government will be relying on aircraft fuel substitutes. These are socially and environmentally damaging. And, we will still have the same old noisy, polluting aircraft!

We need to cut the number of flights from UK airports, especially long haul:

- 70% of all flights are taken by the 15% of people who are frequent flyers.
- Flights of over 5,000
 kilometres make up 60% of UK aviation emissions.
- Lots of people don't fly at all (53%) or fly very little but still suffer the noise and pollution.

The Green Party would do something about this:

- Unlike the fuel in your car, air travel is zero rated for VAT and pays no fuel duty. We would tax aircraft fuel and introduce a frequent flyers levy.
- Aviation would also be subject to a carbon tax to reflect the damage done by the CO2 and non CO2 emissions.

Immediately:

- We would campaign to cease all airport expansion.
- Encourage more environmentally friendly means of travel, including affordable rail.
- It is disgraceful that we should expect 750,000 Londoners, including all those in Brentford & Boston Manor, to live with noise levels well above World Health Organisation recommended levels for both air and noise pollution.

This isn't inevitable, say Stephen Clark.
Let's do something about it...
When your opportunity comes - choose a better quality of life - Vote for the Green Party



If you share Stephen Clark's concern for our local environment, nature, our green spaces, addressing climate change, transport improvements, energy conservation, tackling poverty and improving animal welfare (farm animals, animals in sport, wildlife and pets) then consider joining us in the Green Party:

join.greenparty.org.uk.



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