

Response submitted to DFT Airspace Consultation on 10th May 2017

Buckland is a Surrey village situated at the base of the north downs between Dorking and Reigate. The village comprises c.250 households and has a population of c.650 and very low levels of background noise, particularly during the night. Buckland Parish Council (“Council”) is the locally elected public body that represents the interests of this rural community.

Buckland Parish Council is a member of Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign (“GACC”) and supports GACCs detailed submission to this consultation.

Rather than repeat statements from the GACC submission, Buckland Parish Council would like to emphasise points made in that submission pertinent to ourselves and our location relative to Gatwick airport.

Buckland Parish Council:

- supports a policy which will permit dispersal or respite instead of concentrated flight paths;
- concurs with GACC’s view that the new Noise Commission should have much stronger powers to control noise. We are concerned that the criteria for determining noise limits do not take any account of the lower ambient noise typical of our rural setting;
- strongly opposes any attempt to pass control of noise and night flights to airports who clearly have a conflict of interest. Noise monitoring and control should be independent of the airports who would, without doubt, place profit before community concerns regarding noise. We also feel that local government does not have the level of resources or in depth knowledge to manage the complex issues involved.

In summary, any body constituted to monitor and control noise must be independently structured and have sufficient informed experience to provide an equitable solution to noise related issues.

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