

Response submitted to DFT Runway 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 confirms its opposition to a new runway at Gatwick Airport and restates its belief that any development at the airport should be on the basis of it remaining a single runway airport.

Buckland Parish Council is concerned that:

(i) a second runway, designed to double the number of aircraft in the sky would result in new routes or busier routes causing great disturbance, distress and anger in local rural communities;

(ii) congestion on our roads is already severe, our railways services are struggling to meet demand and there is a shortage of housing;

and notes that the level of employment in the area is very high.

Buckland Parish Council, having reviewed available research, believes the requirement for an influx of new workers to the area, to support the projected growth of activity at and around Gatwick Airport, would further increase the pressure on housing stock and already stretched public services and lead to even more severe congestion on our roads and public transport routes. This increased urbanisation would cause permanent damage to our rural communities.

Accordingly, Buckland Parish Council confirms its opposition to a new runway at Gatwick Airport and agrees with the decision to choose Heathrow.

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