



HALE PARISH COUNCIL
OF THE HALTON BOROUGH IN
THE COUNTY OF CHESHIRE



Hale Parish Council
Hale Village Hall
High Street
Hale
Halton
Cheshire
L24 4AE

www.haleparishcouncil.gov.uk
clerk@haleparishcouncil.gov.uk

Proper Officer: Mr Brian Hargreaves

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16 March 2021

**Parish Council clashes with Local Authority over plans to wipe out
80 Acres of Green Belt**

Local authorities Hale Parish Council and Halton Borough Council have clashed over plans put forward by Halton Borough Council to decimate approximately 80 acres of Green Belt on Hale Heath to make way for Liverpool John Lennon Airport's expansion plans.

Situated on the north-west fringe of Cheshire's Green Belt, Hale Village is recognised by Natural England for its Grade 1 agricultural land and is considered to have some of the best and most versatile land in the county for food production, being the only area in Halton (and one of only two in Cheshire) with such a unique designation.

Hale Heath is frequented by locals and visitors alike, and is one of the main points of access to Hale Cliffs and the River Mersey. Removing this Green Belt would not only have consequences for wildlife such as nesting birds, it could also restrict access to Oglet shore and the Mersey Way.

The Parish Council is putting forward its case at a hearing on Wednesday 17 March and has drafted in Ned Westaway, who successfully represented the Liverpool Open and Green Spaces Society recently in their fight to quash the planning permission granted by Liverpool City Council for a Redrow Homes development at Calderstones Park (Liverpool).

The Parish Council's position is that the future success of the airport does not require Green Belt release and the permanent loss of the important protections provided by Green Belt designation is neither justified, necessary or in accordance with national policy. The Council highlights stark inconsistencies in historic passenger growth figures, asserting that it does not consider the extension is supported by a real, as opposed to hypothetical, business case. The Council is also shocked that no impacts on extending the Public Safety Zone have been outlined in any of the plans, raising questions of whether public safety is being overlooked in favour of profit.

Cllr Malcolm Spargo, Vice Chairman of Hale Parish Council, adds "Public Safety Zones are areas at the end of runways designed to control the number of people on the ground at risk of an aircraft accident on take-off or landing. Any homes within a Public Safety Zone are at risk of a Compulsory Purchase Order. The proposed plans outline the runway extension but give no indication of the extent of the new Public Safety Zone, leaving residents in the dark and unaware

of whether they could lose their homes or be within an area that is at risk of future aircraft accidents. It was only last month that Boeing 777s were banned from entering UK airspace following engine fires and public safety must be prioritised above all else”.

With numerous changes of ownership in recent years, Liverpool John Lennon Airport has failed repeatedly to realise the passenger figures of 2007 which saw approximately 5.5 million passengers per annum. With such a decline in passenger figures, and the uncertainty of the effects that Covid-19 will have on future air travel, residents are bewildered at plans to expand a business that has consistently demonstrated it is unable to withstand the competition from nearby Manchester Airport.

Having declared a climate emergency on 16 October 2019, pressure is mounting on Halton Borough Council to justify its plans and residents are calling for the Council to follow in the footsteps of North Somerset Council who recently voted to reject Bristol Airport’s plans for expansion. The proposed runway extension is set to be the biggest carbon-related decision to have faced the local authority in recent years and residents fear there has been little consideration given to the negative effects the proposed expansion would have from the millions of tonnes of extra CO2 that could be released into the atmosphere if this plan goes ahead.

Cllr Luke Trevaskis, Chairman of Hale Parish Council, adds “the proposals outlined in the draft Local Plan are nothing short of an act of vandalism. Removing Green Belt does not solve the needs of this community and the voices of residents have been completely overlooked. Hale is a beautiful village and why anyone would want to see an airport expand into it is beyond me. The plan in its current form would have a pronounced negative impact on such a lovely area and I am confident the Parish Council’s representation at the examination hearings will ensure the concerns of residents are heard”.

- Ends -

For more information, interviews or images, please contact Mr Brian Hargreaves at Hale Parish Council by emailing clerk@haleparishcouncil.gov.uk

Editors Notes

Hale Parish Council is celebrating its 125th years of serving its community.

The Council has ten members who represent local people, helping to provide local amenities, services and facilities.

Liverpool John Lennon Airport Passenger Figures:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liverpool_John_Lennon_Airport

Hale Parish Council's full objection:

<https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/eip/pdf/writtenstatements/Matter%209%20-%20Luke%20Trevaskis%20%28on%20behalf%20of%20Hale%20Parish%20Council%20%29%2803351%29.pdf>