

Hi everyone

This is a special “Mid-Month” Newsletter. It really needs positive action from you all....

THIS IS PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER I HAVE SENT OUT FOR MANY YEARS.

THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO SHOW THE AIRPORT MANAGEMENT THAT WE DO CARE ABOUT “OUR” AIRPORT, AND SHOW THEM THAT AN AIRPORT SOCIAL GROUP DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY WORK AGAINST THEM BUT CAN SERIOUSLY WORK IN THEIR FAVOUR AS WELL.

With the forthcoming 29th July deadline for opinions to count in the Council consultation regarding the request for a variation of Biggin Hill Airport’s lease to cover the Olympics, time is now getting short to have your views taken into account. At the time of sending this Newsletter, the indications are that there have already been considerably more people who have expressed a “No” vote than there have been indicating support for the proposal.

The opposition groups have stepped up their propaganda and misinformation, sensing a victory that will set a precedent for them in dictating future policy and airport use. They must not be allowed to get away with this unchallenged.

We are all either current or past airport users. We love “our” airport, even if we have had some differences of opinion with the management from time to time. But what is clear, is that without the management of the airport’s actions and improvements over the years, we would probably have lost it completely before now. But there are many out there that would wish to stop everything at Biggin Hill.

I have heard it said that the opposition groups don’t want to stop the airport, they just want it to go back to how it was in the 60’s – with just little club and private aircraft pottering about. This will never happen! Biggin Hill Airport occupies a massive piece of prime land on the outskirts of the capital. There is absolutely no way that club and private aircraft are able to financially support the costs involved in maintaining a Headcorn, or Redhill, type of operation on an airport as large as Biggin Hill. It would simply lose money and eventually close completely. If that happened, it would inevitably be used for other more profitable purposes – after all, it would make a fantastic piece of land for the building of a massive housing estate!

Do you really want this to happen to “your” airport?

I know that Biggin Hill’ites are not the easiest people to motivate into action – there is a tendency to say “I’ll do something about this tomorrow”, but tomorrow never comes. You really do need to act to stop the opposition groups from gaining even more momentum! This is not just about the Olympics proposals – this is about stopping the opposition groups from getting more power to control “our” airport. Today, the Olympics, tomorrow, the hours, the aircraft types, the facilities we need, and so on!

So: What should you do?

Firstly: It doesn’t matter where you currently live, you have a right to an opinion about the airport that you use, or have used in the past. You need to write in support of the Airport’s Olympic bid, to Bromley Council. (Remember, if you are married or with a partner, get them to write separately too, if they agree with you – each view will be counted separately! The opposition are doing this too!). You can do this in one of several ways:

Email your own views, or a copy of the standard text to airport.consultation@bromley.gov.uk

or

Write your own letter to Airport Consultation Group, Bromley Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH

or
Print a copy of our standard letter in pdf format, at:

www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/olympicsupport.pdf

or in word format

www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/olympicsupport.doc

add your full name and address in the box at the top, and sign the letter.

or

Complete the tear off strip on the mini-poster (which also clearly states what has been proposed, and perhaps more importantly, what has not been proposed) to be found on the link below

www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/olympicleaflet.pdf

If not using the email route, your letter, or the tear of strip, can either be posted directly to the Council at the address above, or drop it off in the special drop-box in the airport security post at the entrance to the terminal.

Finally, several local newspapers have articles about the proposals, and these articles usually have readers opinions following them where you can add counter arguments – join in these discussions – most of the comments are from people who have been frightened into believing that the world will end if Biggin Hill Airport is allowed to get it's way over the two fortnight periods covering the 2012 London Olympics – they need to see that this is total rubbish, so the more the merrier.

At the very least, please add your vote to the poll on this local paper's website – the link at the time of publishing this is on the right side of the page (note this poll is clouded by the fact it was started prior to the rejection of the first bid that included scheduled services – the new bid no longer seeks that approval. But we still need to add out votes to it to counter the opposition):

<http://www.bromley-today.co.uk/>

Come on Biggin Hill'ites – start joining in, and get friends and family, and even neighbours, to do the same – let's not let the vocal opposition get away with their misinformation and scare tactics that could change our airport forever. THIS CONSULTATION IS NOT REALLY JUST ABOUT THE OLYMPICS PROPOSAL – IT IS ABOUT THE POWER TO CONTROL WHAT WE CAN DO WITH OUR AIRPORT. So please, get involved! If you don't, there could eventually come a time when you will need to find somewhere else to fly from, if the opposition groups get their way on this and other future issues.

John Willis - Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

PS. Other links that you may wish to view:

<http://www.biggin-hill-today.co.uk/>

http://www.newshopper.co.uk/news/9094849.Council_to_reconsider_Biggin_Hill_Airport_s_bid_for_extended_2012_Olympic_hours/

<http://bigginhillairport.com/revised-olympic-hours-application-filed-with-bromley-council>

http://www.thisislocalondon.co.uk/whereilive/southeast/bromley/9103361.Council_consulting_over_new_airport_proposals_to_extend_Olympic_opening_hours/

http://www.kentnews.co.uk/news/mp_jo_johnson_raises_alarm_over_biggin_hill_expansion_1_955781

<http://www.bromley-today.co.uk/searchresult.cfm?cat=News&vote=yes>

<http://chislehurstnews.wordpress.com/2011/07/04/chislehurst-residents-urged-to-object-to-biggin-hill-expansion/>