

Hi everyone

Sorry I was not able to be with thr many of you who were able to pay their respects to the family of our great friend and Doctor, Ian Black, at his funeral recently. Unfortunately, as many of you will know, I was away with the family in the States at the time. I gather Ian was given a true Biggin Hill send off, which he obviously deserved.

The purpose of this newsletter is to draw your attention to the recently published Draft Master Plan document from the Biggin Hill Airport operators. This plan was published as a consultation document at the Government's request and is designed for the management to show how they see Biggin Hill fitting into the overall London area master plan for the next decade or so.

I have reviewed this document, as a resident of the village/town, rather than as an airport user, and I have to say that there is nothing in it that I find particularly onerous. Certainly, if it ever does proceed (which is by no means certain - after all it is just a draft plan showing the way the airport would like to go), then my personal feeling is that it is far better than the alternatives - possible ultimate closure and development as a massive affordable homes housing estate!

Having said that, the plan has generated mass hysteria on the part of the anti-airport lobby in the surrounding areas. They have resorted to their usual lies and produced colour pamphlets showing emotive pictures of children in hospital beds and so on, generally frightening the population into believing this plan will destroy totally the area for 50 miles radius - you know the stuff! Unfortunately, these people are easily frightened into writing in with objections to the plan and they are currently doing so in their hundreds - even in their thousands.

Now I do appreciate that Andrew Walters is not everybody's friend at the airport but, faced with the mobilised opposition that may restrict our airport further forever (even to the extent that it could ultimately fail and close altogether), the airport does desperately need the letters of "favourable comment" to balance the scales a little. I know most people simply do not bother to compliment and it is only when they wish to complain, that they put pen to paper, but I would strongly urge you all to do so on this issue....

**THE CONSULTATIVE PERIOD ENDS ON 31ST MARCH - SO PLEASE ACT QUICKLY**

The full consultative documents can be seen by going to our own site for the Save Biggin Hill Village Campaign (<http://www.savebigginhill.co.uk>) where there are links to the documents - and the guestbook over the last couple of weeks contains some relevant and interesting entries that you could read and add to. I have not this time set out a "pro-forma" letter of comment, as this carries considerably less weight in refuting the objection letters that are being sent in (most of those are simply pre-prepared ones from the opposition group

itself). I urge you PLEASE to simply write a few lines of (hopefully) supporting comments and send the letters by post to two separate addresses:

Draft Master Plan  
Biggin Hill Airport  
Biggin Hill  
Kent  
TN16 3BN

and to

Cllr Stephen Carr  
Leader of Bromley Council  
Civic Centre  
Stockwell Close  
Bromley  
Kent  
BR1 3UH

if you care to, there is nothing wrong with copying it to the local MP -  
The Rt Hon John Horam PM House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

as this may also help.

Don't think it is necessary to write an essay - just a one of two liner showing your basic support for the airport's intention to carry out limited and controlled development to ensure the long term survival in the competitive London Airport's arena, would be perfectly sufficient. It is worth including a comment in the letter asking for an acknowledgement, and to be kept informed, etc. If you feel strongly, as I do, get your family, friends, and colleagues, to send in their own letters too. Remember, there will be literally thousands of objection letters - we need to try to balance the scales a little to protect the airport's future - if they win on this one, they will keep pushing, and the end product will be the same as West Malling, and now North Weald - something I am sure none of us want.

Thanks for reading this - please do review the plans via the site – write in the guestbook for others to comment - and most importantly, send in those letters quickly!

Regards  
John Willis  
The Biggin Hill Users Database

PS. It does make a change not to be the bearer of bad tidings this time, but to avoid breaking an almost unblemished record, I should tell you, for those who were around in the dark distant past, that I have just heard that the almost infamous "Daphne" from the 1960's (remember the hair bun!) passed away recently. No real details known though.....