



Monday 28th March 2022 starting at 7.30pm

Breachwood Green Village Hall, Chapel Rd, Breachwood Green, SG4 8NX

To Cllrs: D Bennett, J Chamberlin, J Graziano, P Harman, B James, A King (Chair), M Mulgrew

Councillors are respectively summoned to attend this meeting for the transaction of business in the agenda below. The meeting is open to members of the public and press.

Lisa Lathane, Clerk to the Council, 22nd March 2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Lathane'.

AGENDA

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence.
2. Chairman's remarks.
3. Public participation: To receive presentations from the public (10 minutes allowed, † pre-registration requested)
 - a. To receive a presentation from District Councillors (5 minutes allowed).
 - b. To receive a presentation from the County Councillor (5 minutes allowed).
4. To adopt the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 28th February 2022.
5. Matters arising from minutes of 28th February not covered elsewhere.
6. To receive the clerk's report including an update on ongoing projects.
7. Review and adoption of new Code of Conduct.
8. Review of Asset Register.
9. To consider the planting of trees at the Village Hall
10. Airport.
 - a. To agree a response on the Proposed Expansion Consultation
 - b. Update on Disposal of Wigmore Valley Park
11. Finance and Risk:
 - a. To authorise non-contractual payments and note payments to date.
12. Planning:
 - a) To receive and consider responses to planning applications.
 - b) To note decisions and appeals.
 - c) To consider any other planning matters pertinent to the Parish Council.
 - i. Baileys Farm Close
13. Matters for future consideration.

Next scheduled meetings:

- Parish Council meeting: Monday 25th April 2022 19:30
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Minutes of the meeting of the Kings Walden Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Breachwood Green on Monday 28th February 2022 at 7.30pm

Councillors: Jon Chamberlin, Paul Harman, Brenda James, Joe Graziano, Amanda King (Chair)
In attendance: the clerk and RFO, Lisa Lathane, District Councillor David Barnard

- 10.1 (Agenda 1) To receive apologies for absence.**
None.
- 10.2 (Agenda 2) Chairman's remarks.**
Members were reminded of the council's code of conduct and the requirement to make Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.
- 10.3 (Agenda 3) Public participation:**
District Councillor David Barnard addressed the meeting.
- a) Police: The Police Crime Commissioner has announced that the Police Force has requested a Precept increase of £10 per annum for a Band D House. This will help to fund:
 - a. 20 PCSOs
 - b. 20 Control Room Staff
 - c. A dedicated Crime Prevention Squad to visit schools etc.
 - b) Local Plan: There is still no update on the Local Plan. The Inspector has been delivered new figures and information which shows that there is no need for development of housing within North Herts to the East of Luton.
 - c) Luton Airport Petition: Bim Afolami MP has created an online petition to stop London Luton Airport expansion. This can be found at www.bimafolami.co.uk/stop-luton-expansion.
 - d) Grants: Cllr Barnard has given £500 to each of the primary schools in his district, including Breachwood Green Primary School from his Locality Budget.
 - e) District Council Elections will be every 4 years now from 2024.
- 10.4 (Agenda 4) To adopt the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 18th January 2022.**
The minutes were adopted, and the chairman was authorised to sign.
- 10.5 (Agenda 5) Matters arising from minutes of 18th January 2022 not covered elsewhere.**
None.
- 10.6 (Agenda 6) To receive the clerk's report including an update on ongoing projects.**
1. The clerk presented a verbal update on her report.
 - a. Zip Wire: The zip wire seat had a fault so a new one has been ordered and will be collected by the clerk.
 - b. Youth Club: Andrew Spyrou is happy to continue to run the Youth Club and will reopen at the end of March. Cllr Graziano will pass details to the clerk of a possible assistant.
 - c. Stopsley Sharks Football Club: The club have still not been able to use the pitches due to the weather. The Cricket Club fixtures list has been sent to them so that there aren't any clashes with use of the Recreation Ground.
- 10.7 (Agenda 7) Review and adoption of Scheme of Delegation to Committees and Clerk**
1. It was **AGREED** that a third member should be invited to the Airport Committee to create a more balanced view. Cllr Graziano will seek to find an interested party.
 2. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the proposed policies with the agreed amendments.



10.8 (Agenda 8) Village Hall

1. New Lease:

- a. A new lease will cost between £1500 and £2500 depending on how much negotiation is required.
- b. It was **AGREED** by members that the Parish Council's Village Hall Committee will meet to put together a first draft of a lease before consulting with solicitors.

2. Changing Rooms:

- a. A specification has been received which can be used to obtain 3 quotes. It is evident that a full refurbishment at this stage is more costly than first thought. Cllr Harman and the clerk will look at the specification to create a staged refurbishment plan.

10.9 (Agenda 9) Airport Update

Cllr Graziano presented a verbal update on his report which can be seen in annex 1.

1. Luton Rising (Formerly LLAO) are running Statutory Consultation from 18th Feb until 4th April, for the airport expansion (Delayed from 2019).
2. Survey: Members **AGREED** to conduct an online survey to gauge how the parish residents feel about the proposed Luton Rising Airport Expansion Consultation and the Disposal of Wigmore Park. The clerk will organise.
3. An agreement will be made at the next meeting on the Parish Council's response to the consultation following the results of the survey.

10.10 (Agenda 10) Keys / Keysafe

1. The clerk shared the key log with the members, keys held by the Cricket Club and R J Dawes will be added.
2. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Graziano will fit a key safe at the Village Hall to hold a key for the Car Park Barrier.

10.11 (Agenda 11) MUGA Maintenance Update

The clerk presented the members with two quotes to replace the MUGA surface from Play Innovation who originally fitted it. The clerk has asked the company for a cost to just patch up the areas which are showing damage.

10.12 (Agenda 12) Police Update

None.

10.13 (Agenda 13) Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

1. Cllr Harman has reserved an outdoor screen for the Jubilee Celebrations, with a cost of £1600.
2. Cllr Barnard agreed to put £250 towards the cost of the screen from his Locality Budget. The clerk will formally apply. The clerk will investigate further Platinum Jubilee grants to support the rest of the cost.
3. Cllr Harman has started putting together a Working Party to organise the event on Saturday the 4th June. Some food vendors have been booked and the Red Lion have agreed to run a bar.

10.14 (Agenda 14) To agree the planting of free trees in the parish

1. Cllr Graziano has obtained 250 free trees to plant in the parish. Some residents have requested some for their gardens.
2. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Graziano and Cllr Chamberlin will walk the boundary of the Recreation Ground to find spaces in the hedgerow where trees can be planted to fill in the gaps.



10.15 (Agenda 15) Social Media / email Database and the management of information

1. It was **AGREED** that all Planning Application Notifications will be posted on Facebook, and sent out via the email database. It will be made clear that the Parish Council do not make the decision but acts as a consultee.
2. All Parish Council emails sent to a message to a group of residents with a Full Council agreed message will be sent via the clerk.
3. It was requested that conversations between Councillors outside of a meeting are kept confidential to avoid unnecessary gossip in the parish.

10.16 (Agenda 12) Finance and Risk

1. Payments made were **NOTED** and approved. Payments can be seen in annex 2.
2. It was **RESOLVED** to pay £30 to Dementia UK as a thank you to the resident whose electricity was used for the Christmas tree lights. A bank transfer payment will be made under S137. The clerk will also send a card of thanks to the resident.
3. The members **AGREED** to add Cllr Graziano and Cllr Chamberlin as signatories on the online banking.

10.17 (Agenda 13) Planning:

1. Planning Applications:
 - a) Reference: 22/00176/FPH The Spinney, Heath Road, Breachwood Green: The members **AGREED** that they had no objections to this application.
 - b) Reference: 22/00318/FP Baileys Close Farm, Pasture Lane, Breachwood Green: The members **AGREED** to object on the following grounds:
 - i. Concerns that this development is no longer Light Industrial Use as per the first planning application.
 - ii. The road infrastructure is unable to cope with the size and number of lorries that will use the site daily.
 - iii. Concerns regarding the residing wildlife at the site.
 - iv. Safety concerns for the village, in particular the school.
 - c) Reference: 22/00414/FPH 32 Chapel Road, Breachwood Green. The members **AGREED** that they had no objections to this application.

10.18 Matters for future consideration.

None.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Next scheduled meetings:

- Parish Council meeting: Monday 21st March 2021 19:30



ANNEX 1

Luton Rising (Formerly LLAO) are running Statutory Consultation from 18th Feb until 4th April, for the airport expansion (Delayed from 2019). Our In-person event is on 21st February at the Village Hall, BWG. Lisa has circulated the details on Social.

In summary:

- Increase in passenger numbers to 32 million
- New DART connection to a Central Terminus (Completed 2022)
- New T2 on Wigmore Valley Park
- Enhanced road connections in Luton
- New Park increases by 10% & relocated in North Herts
- DCO will ensure all land maintained/controlled by LR is under one roof
- New discretionary compensation: Voluntary acquisition of residential properties and relocation costs for those within the 69 dB noise contour
- Hardship scheme for properties in the 66 dB noise contour
- Consider purchases of the homes of those unable to sell their property and who are experiencing exceptional hardship as a result at unaffected open-market value
- Noise insulation schemes - a tiered noise insulation scheme that will replace any existing schemes. The scheme offers a range of packages for homeowners and owners of other special buildings, such as schools, dependent on the noise effects at their properties.
- Light screening for obtrusive lighting from airport
- Enhanced Landscaping (trees and shrub planting) to enhance the environment in DCO
- Updated noise controls etc

As individuals you can comment on this and should do so here:

[Consultation - Luton Rising](#)

As a council we would need to formulate a considered response by 4th April 2022.

Attached, main document to read, all other document addendums are here:

[Consultation - Luton Rising](#)

22 Questions to answer on consultation.

After consultation it will go to full planning.

Proposal

- The Parish consists of 1110 residents, we need to represent their views and not hold our own.
- 20% estimated work at airport. Cllr Graziano has requested FOI on how many responded to current 19 MPA from village. There is a thought that residents are apathetic and not interested in what's going on.
- We email/write to each person to gain consensus about general feel. We must represent our residents and go with what the consensus is.
- Goes to vote after results and get it recorded.
- Vote yearly on this matter yearly, to keep views reflected and concurrent with what's going on.



- Must happen in March 2022

Initial views:

- Lack of specific tree/bush shielding specifically to BWG, need more of a pin-down to location, how long it would take to screen-off. Consultation talks about landscaping but need specific detail
- Surface access only again discussed in Luton and not as previously raised at Eaton Green/Darley Road Asda junction, potential bottle neck
- New Wigmore Park – mature trees or not?
- Noise contours don't capture left and right of village, what is discretionary policy in terms of Compulsory Purchase / Insulation
- DCO will manage the land, under one roof. Confusion with people thinking T2 is being built on Darley Road field.
- KWPC Fixed Noise monitor postponed until June 2022
- Airport monitor not on list for this year 2022

FASI Future Airspace Strategy Implementation South (FASI-S) – Online Meeting 22/02/22

- Design principles on airspace efficiency at national level instructed by DfT and CAA to implement after speaking to stakeholders.
- We are in Northolt, LDN Stanstead, Heathrow shared airspace. There are certain rules which can't be changed ie: flying south over Northolt and over Gliding Cub in Dunstable Downs. Noise needs to be distributed more evenly and consistently.
- Our provisional success is a 15-degree track change gets submitted, aircraft turn 15 degrees at 9 thousand feet right, (3 miles) avoids village and gives respite, await CAA final decision in 2024.

Cllr Joe Graziano

ANNEX 2

Kings Walden Parish Council - Summary Financial Report as at 25th February 2022										
Current Account									£	
Balance at 14th January 2022									£ 9,591.28	
Payments authorised at meeting:										
Date	Payee	Description	Payment Ref	Net	VAT	Total				
18 January 2022	Zen Internet Ltd	Admin	P-2022-075	£ 35.00	£ 7.00	£ 42.00				
4 February 2022	Zen Internet Ltd	Admin	P-2022-076	£ 5.99	£ 1.20	£ 7.19				
8 February 2022	Google	Admin	P-2022-077	£ 8.28	£ -	£ 8.28				
9 February 2022	JC Agriculture	Christmas Lights	P-2022-078	£ 626.28	£ 52.46	£ 314.74				
9 February 2022	RJ Dawes	Grass cutting & litter picking	P-2022-079	£ 208.33	£ 41.67	£ 250.00				
14 February 2022	Scottish Power	Youth Hut	P-2022-080	£ 116.28	£ 5.81	£ 122.09				
18 February 2022	Zen Internet Ltd	Admin	P-2022-081	£ 35.00	£ 7.00	£ 42.00				
25 February 2022	McVeigh Parker & Co	Gate	P-2022-082	£ 484.15	£ 96.83	£ 580.98				
				£ 1,519.31	£ 211.97	£ 1,367.28				
Monies received:										
Date	From	Description					Total			
17 January 2022	Andrew Spyrou	Youth Club					£ 685.66			
7 February 2022	Whitwell Football Club	MUGA Fees					£ 60.00			
11 February 2022	Lightsource	Solar Farm Grant					£ 2,584.38			
						£ 3,330.04				
Balance at 25th February 2022									£ 11,554.04	
Business Bank Deposit Account										
Balance at 14th January 2022									£ 24,045.97	
Date	Recipient							Total		
							£ -			
Monies Received										
9 February 2022	Interest							£ 0.20		
							£ 0.20			
Balance at 25th February 2022									£ 24,046.17	
Total bank balances									£ 35,600.21	



Papers for meeting 28th February 2022

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence.
2. Chairman's remarks.
3. Public participation: To receive presentations from the public (10 minutes allowed, † pre-registration requested)
 - a. To receive a presentation from District Councillors (5 minutes allowed).
 - b. To receive a presentation from the County Councillor (5 minutes allowed).
4. To adopt the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 28th February 2022.
5. Matters arising from minutes of 28th February not covered elsewhere.
6. To receive the clerk's report including an update on ongoing projects.

Zip Wire: the part was collected and Joe Beavis kindly fitted it making it up and running again.

Kissing Gate: the kissing gate for Ley Green Play Area has been delivered to Cllr Chamberlin.

Youth Club: A second Youth Worker has been found to work alongside Andrew Spyrou. Frankie is already DBS checked as she works in a nursery school. She used to attend BWG Primary and the youth club. She will start on the 29th March.

7. Review and adoption of new Code of Conduct.

See in Appendix A

8. Review of Asset Register.

To follow

9. To consider the planting of trees at the Village Hall

Cllr Graziano through Breachwood Green CIC has another 250 trees to plant and wishes to plant some at the Village Hall.

10. Airport.
 - a. To agree a response on the Proposed Expansion Consultation

Draft in Appendix B

- b. Update on Disposal of Wigmore Valley Park

The following has been received in regards to the disposal of Wigmore Valley Park:



Dear Sirs,

I write to inform you that the Council intends to dispose of the land referred to above and in the attached plan.

The land in question is subject to a nomination as an Asset of Community Value under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 with KWPC being one of the successful nominators.

Further to this the Council has received an expression of interest from a community group and as such the full moratorium period is now considered to be in effect.

As per the legislation community groups, including Parish Councils, are now permitted to place bids for the land in question within the period of the moratorium.

I hereby set out Moratorium dates as follows.

Commencement of initial moratorium: 07/03/2022

Close of initial moratorium: 19/04/2022

Commencement of Full Moratorium: 07/03/2022

Closure of full moratorium: 08/09/2022 at 17:00

Start of protected period: 07/03/2022

Close of protected period: 08/09/2023

These will be published on the website in due course.

I have no intention of being prescriptive as to the form of bids that groups may wish to make, however I would suggest that for ease of comparison they include, as a minimum, the following information;

Whether the bid is made on a leasehold or freehold basis

If leasehold the term of the proposed lease and any breaks

The capital value or annual rent you are offering

Proof of funds in the form of either a bank statement, annual accounts, description of charitable trusts etc.

Your intended use for the land if acquired.

For the avoidance of doubt, bids must be received by the "closure of full moratorium" date indicated above, otherwise they will not be considered.

11. Finance and Risk:

- a. To authorise non-contractual payments and note payments to date.

Kings Walden Parish Council - Summary Financial Report as at 26th March 2022

Current Account						£	
						Balance at 25th February 2022	£ 11,554.04
Payments authorised at meeting:							
Date	Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Total		
7 March 2022	Dementia UK	S137 - re Christmas electricity	£ 30.00	£ -	£ 30.00		
7 March 2022	R J Dawes	Grass cutting and litter picking	£ 208.33	£ 41.67	£ 250.00		
7 March 2022	Setter Play	Playground Maintenance	£ 156.00	£ 31.20	£ 187.20		
7 March 2022	Zen Internet Ltd	Admin	£ 5.99	£ 1.20	£ 7.19		
8 March 2022	Google	Admin	£ 8.91	£ -	£ 8.91		
18 March 2022	Zen Internet Ltd	Admin	£ 35.00	£ 7.00	£ 42.00		
18 March 2022	DCK Payroll Services	Payroll	£ 35.00	£ 7.00	£ 42.00		
18 March 2022	Payroll	Payroll	£ 1,681.07	£ -	£ 1,681.07		
18 March 2022	Clerk Expenses	Admin	£ 194.38	£ 12.07	£ 206.45		
			<u>£ 2,354.68</u>	<u>£ 100.14</u>	<u>£ 2,454.82</u>		
Monies received:							
Date	From						
8 March 2022	Hertfordshire County Council	Locality Budget Grant			£ 250.00		
					<u>£ 250.00</u>		
						Balance at 26th March 2022	<u>£ 9,349.22</u>

Business Bank Deposit Account

						Balance at 25th February 2022	£ 24,046.17
Date	Recipient						
					<u>£ -</u>		
Monies Received							
9 March 2022	Interest				£ 0.18		
					<u>£ 0.18</u>		
						Balance at 26th March 2022	<u>£ 24,046.35</u>
						Total bank balances	£ 33,395.57

12. Planning:

- a) To receive and consider responses to planning applications.
 b) To note decisions and appeals.
 c) To consider any other planning matters pertinent to the Parish Council.
 i. Baileys Farm Close

13. Matters for future consideration.

Next scheduled meetings:

- Parish Council meeting: Monday 25th April 2022 19:30

APPENDIX A

**Kings Walden
Parish Council**



CODE OF CONDUCT

**Adopted: XXX
Review Date: XXX**

**KINGS WALDEN PARISH COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR COUNCILLORS (AND VOTING / NON-VOTING CO-OPTES)
BASED ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MODEL CODE¹**

Joint statement

The role of Councillor across all tiers of local government is a vital part of our country's system of democracy. It is important that as Councillors we can be held accountable and all adopt the behaviours and responsibilities associated with the role. Our conduct as an individual Councillor affects the reputation of all Councillors. We want the role of Councillor to be one that people aspire to. We also want individuals from a range of backgrounds and circumstances to be putting themselves forward to become Councillors.

As Councillors, we represent local residents, work to develop better services and deliver local change. The public have high expectations of us and entrust us to represent our local area; taking decisions fairly, openly, and transparently. We have both an individual and collective responsibility to meet these expectations by maintaining high standards and demonstrating good conduct, and by challenging behaviour which falls below expectations. Importantly, we should be able to undertake our role as a Councillor without being intimidated, abused, bullied or threatened by anyone, including the general public.

This Code has been designed to protect our democratic role, encourage good conduct and safeguard the public's trust in local government. *[NB LGA introduction moved to footnote.]*

Definitions

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, a "Councillor" means a member or co-opted member of a local authority or a directly elected mayor. A "co-opted member" is defined in the Localism Act 2011 Section 27(4) as "a person who is not a member of the authority but who:

- a) is a member of any committee or sub-committee of the authority; or
- b) is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the authority;

and who is entitled to vote on any question that falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or sub-committee".

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, "local authority" includes County Councils, District Councils, London Borough Councils, Parish Councils, Town Councils, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities, joint authorities, economic prosperity boards, combined authorities and National Park authorities.

Purpose of the Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to assist you, as a Councillor, in modelling the behaviour that is expected of you, to provide a personal check and balance, and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against you. It is also to protect you, the public, fellow Councillors, local authority officers and the reputation of local government. It sets out general principles of conduct expected of all Councillors and your specific obligations in relation to standards of conduct. The LGA encourages the use of support, training and mediation prior to action being taken using the Code. The fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of Councillor and local government.

General principles of Councillor conduct

Everyone in public office at all levels; all who serve the public or deliver public services, including ministers, civil servants, Councillors and local authority officers; should uphold the [Seven Principles of Public Life](#), also known as the Nolan Principles.

¹ LGA Model dated 19.1.21, (as amended by recommendation of Standards Committee) Introduction -The Local Government Association (LGA) has developed this Model Councillor Code of Conduct, in association with key partners and after extensive consultation with the sector, as part of its work on supporting all tiers of local government to continue to aspire to high standards of leadership and performance. It is a template for councils to adopt in whole and/or with local amendments. All councils are required to have a local Councillor Code of Conduct. The LGA will undertake an annual review of this Code to ensure it continues to be fit-for-purpose, incorporating advances in technology, social media and changes in legislation. The LGA can also offer support, training and mediation to councils and Councillors on the application of the Code and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the county associations of local councils can offer advice and support to town and parish councils

Building on these principles, the following general principles have been developed specifically for the role of Councillor.

In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions:

- I act with integrity and honesty
- I act lawfully
- I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and
- I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of Councillor.

In undertaking my role:

- I impartially exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the local community
- I do not improperly seek to confer an advantage, or disadvantage, on any person
- I avoid conflicts of interest
- I exercise reasonable care and diligence; and
- I ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with my local authority's requirements and in the public interest.

Application of the Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to you as soon as you sign your declaration of acceptance of the office of Councillor or attend your first meeting as a co-opted member and continues to apply to you until you cease to be a Councillor.

This Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a Councillor which may include when:

- you misuse your position as a Councillor
- your actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts that you are acting as a Councillor;

The Code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:

- at face-to-face meetings
- at online or telephone meetings
- in written communication
- in verbal communication
- in non-verbal communication
- in electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments.

You are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times when acting as a Councillor.

Your Monitoring Officer has statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and you are encouraged to seek advice from your Monitoring Officer on any matters that may relate to the Code of Conduct. Town and parish Councillors are encouraged to seek advice from their Clerk, who may refer matters to the Monitoring Officer.

Standards of Councillor conduct

This section sets out your obligations, which are the minimum standards of conduct required of you as a Councillor. Should your conduct fall short of these standards, a complaint may be made against you, which may result in action being taken.

Guidance² is included to help explain the reasons for the obligations and how they should be followed.

² In italics & blue

General Conduct

1. Respect

As a Councillor:

- 1.1 I treat other Councillors and members of the public with respect.**
- 1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.**

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a Councillor, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies in a robust but civil manner. You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack.

In your contact with the public, you should treat them politely and courteously. Rude and offensive behaviour lowers the public's expectations and confidence in Councillors.

In return, you have a right to expect respectful behaviour from the public. If members of the public are being abusive, intimidatory or threatening you are entitled to stop any conversation or interaction in person or online and report them to the local authority, the relevant social media provider or the police. This also applies to fellow Councillors, where action could then be taken under the Councillor Code of Conduct, and local authority employees, where concerns should be raised in line with the local authority's Councillor-officer protocol.

2. Bullying, harassment and discrimination As a Councillor:

- 2.1 I do not bully any person.**
- 2.2 I do not harass any person.**
- 2.3 I promote equalities and do not discriminate unlawfully against any person.**

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) characterises bullying as offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate or injure the recipient. Bullying might be a regular pattern of behaviour or a one-off incident, happen face-to-face, on social media, in emails or phone calls, happen in the workplace or at work social events and may not always be obvious or noticed by others.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 defines harassment as conduct that causes alarm or distress or puts people in fear of violence and must involve such conduct on at least two occasions. It can include repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and contact upon a person in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear in any reasonable person.

Unlawful discrimination is where someone is treated unfairly because of a protected characteristic. Protected characteristics are specific aspects of a person's identity defined by the Equality Act 2010. They are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Equality Act 2010 places specific duties on local authorities. Councillors have a central role to play in ensuring that equality issues are integral to the local authority's performance and strategic aims, and that there is a strong vision and public commitment to equality across public services.

3. Impartiality of officers of the Council As a Councillor:

- 3.1 I do not compromise, or attempt to compromise, the impartiality of**

anyone who works for, or on behalf of, the local authority.

Officers work for the local authority as a whole and must be politically neutral (unless they are political assistants). They should not be coerced or persuaded to act in a way that would undermine their neutrality. You can question officers in order to understand, for example, their reasons for proposing to act in a particular way, or the content of a report that they have written. However, you must not try and force them to act differently, change their advice, or alter the content of that report, if doing so would prejudice their professional integrity.

4. Confidentiality and access to information

As a Councillor:

4.1 I do not disclose information:

- a. given to me in confidence by anyone
- b. acquired by me which I believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, unless
 - i. I have received the consent of a person authorised to give it;
 - ii. I am required by law to do so;
 - iii. the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or
 - iv. the disclosure is:
 1. reasonable and in the public interest; and
 2. made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the local authority; and
 3. I have consulted the Monitoring Officer prior to its release.

4.2 I do not improperly use knowledge gained solely as a result of my role as a Councillor for the advancement of myself, my friends, my family members, my employer or my business interests.

4.3 I do not prevent anyone from getting information that they are entitled to by law.

Local authorities must work openly and transparently, and their proceedings and printed materials are open to the public, except in certain legally defined circumstances. You should work on this basis, but there will be times when it is required by law that discussions, documents and other information relating to or held by the local authority must be treated in a confidential manner. Examples include personal data relating to individuals or information relating to ongoing negotiations.

5. Disrepute

As a Councillor:

5.1 I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.

As a Councillor, you are trusted to make decisions on behalf of your community and your actions and behaviour are subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public. You should be aware that your actions might have an adverse impact on you, other Councillors and/or your local authority and may lower the public's confidence in your or your local authority's ability to discharge your/its functions. For example, behaviour that is considered dishonest and/or deceitful can bring your local authority into disrepute. You are able to hold the local authority and fellow Councillors to account and are able to

constructively challenge and express concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the Council whilst continuing to adhere to other aspects of this Code of Conduct.

6. Use of position

As a Councillor:

- 6.1 I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else.**

Your position as a member of the local authority provides you with certain opportunities, responsibilities, and privileges, and you make choices all the time that will impact others. However, you should not take advantage of these opportunities to further your own or others' private interests or to disadvantage anyone unfairly.

7. Use of local authority resources and facilities

As a Councillor:

- 7.1 I do not misuse Council resources.**

- 7.2 I will, when using the resources of the local or authorising their use by others:**

- a. **act in accordance with the local authority's requirements; and**
- b. **ensure that such resources are not used for political purposes unless that use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate, or be conducive to, the discharge of the functions of the local authority or of the office to which I have been elected or appointed.**

You may be provided with resources and facilities by the local authority to assist you in carrying out your duties as a Councillor. Examples include:

- *office support*
- *stationery*
- *equipment such as phones, and computers*
- *transport*
- *access and use of local authority buildings and rooms.*

These are given to you to help you carry out your role as a Councillor more effectively and are not to be used for business or personal gain. They should be used in accordance with the purpose for which they have been provided and the local authority's own policies regarding their use.

8. Complying with the Code of Conduct

As a Councillor:

- 8.1 I undertake Code of Conduct training provided by my local authority.**
- 8.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination.**
- 8.3 I do not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of any investigation or proceedings.**
- 8.4 I comply with any sanction imposed on me following a finding that I have breached the Code of Conduct.**

It is extremely important for you as a Councillor to demonstrate high standards, for you to have your actions open to scrutiny and for you not to undermine public trust in the local authority or its governance. If you do not understand or are concerned about the local authority's processes in handling a complaint you should raise this with your Monitoring Officer.

Protecting your reputation and the reputation of the local authority

9. Interests

As a Councillor:

9.1 I register and disclose my interests.

Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a Register of interests³ of members of the authority .

You need to register your interests so that the public, local authority employees and fellow Councillors know which of your interests might give rise to a conflict of interest. The Register is a public document that can be consulted when (or before) an issue arises. The Register also protects you by allowing you to demonstrate openness and a willingness to be held accountable. You are personally responsible for deciding whether or not you should disclose an interest in a meeting, but it can be helpful for you to know early on if others think that a potential conflict might arise. It is also important that the public know about any interest that might have to be disclosed by you or other Councillors when making or taking part in decisions, so that decision making is seen by the public as open and honest. This helps to ensure that public confidence in the integrity of local governance is maintained.

*You should note that failure to register or disclose a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest as set out in **Table 1**, is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.*

***Appendix B** sets out the detailed provisions on registering and disclosing interests. If in doubt, you should always seek advice from your Monitoring Officer.*

10. Gifts and hospitality

As a Councillor:

10.1 I do not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on my part to show favour from persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with the local authority or from persons who may apply to the local authority for any permission, licence or other significant advantage.

10.2 I register with the Monitoring Officer any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 within 28 days of its receipt.

10.3 I register with the Monitoring Officer any significant gift or hospitality that I have been offered but have refused to accept.

In order to protect your position and the reputation of the local authority, you should exercise caution in accepting any gifts or hospitality which are (or which you reasonably believe to be) offered to you because you are a Councillor. The presumption should always be not to accept significant gifts or hospitality. However, there may be times when such a refusal may be difficult if it is seen as rudeness in which case you could accept it but must ensure it is publicly registered. However, you do not need to register gifts and hospitality which are not related to your role as a Councillor, such as Christmas gifts from your friends and family. It is also important to note that it is appropriate to accept normal expenses and hospitality associated with your duties as a Councillor. If you are unsure, do contact your Monitoring Officer for guidance.

³ Councillors within the NHDC District have *individual* Registers of Interest – Modern.gov for District and pdf for local councillors

APPENDICES A-C

Appendix A – The Seven Principles of Public Life

The principles are:

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must disclose and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Appendix B Registering interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register⁴ with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in “The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012”. You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Other Registrable Interests)**.

“**Disclosable Pecuniary Interest**” means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

“**Partner**” means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your Register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
2. A ‘sensitive interest’ is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the Councillor, or a person connected with the Councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.

⁴ On your Register of Interest [modern.gov]

3. Where you have a 'sensitive interest' you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public Register.

Non participation in case of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room⁵ unless you have been granted a dispensation⁶. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.
5. Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it

Disclosure of Other Registrable Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to one of your Other Registrable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter⁷ [only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting] but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of Non-Registrable Interests

7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in Table 1) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.
8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –
 - a. your own financial interest or well-being;
 - b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative, close associate; or
 - c. a body included in those you need to disclose under Other Registrable Interests as set out in **Table 2**

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied

9. Where a matter **affects** your financial interest or well-being:
 - a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
 - b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote

⁵ Where this includes virtual meeting, that includes the virtual meeting room.

⁶ Subject to any dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer – see Appendix C

⁷ Subject to any Speaking Rights you may have under the Standing Orders

on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

10. Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you have made an executive decision in relation to that business, you must make sure that any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of your interest.

<p>Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</p> <p>This sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. The statutory provisions can be found in The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 .</p> <p>Description of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (from <i>DCLG Guide for Councillors "Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests" March 2013</i>⁸).</p> <p>If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests under the national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.</p>
<p>Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation</p> <p>Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.</p>
<p>Other payments received</p> <p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. The relevant period is the 12 months ending on the day when you tell the Monitoring Officer about your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests following your election or re-election, or when you became aware you had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to a matter on which you were acting alone.</p>
<p>Contracts</p> <p>Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and• which has not been fully discharged.
<p>Land</p> <p>Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.</p>
<p>Licences</p> <p>Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.</p>
<p>Corporate tenancies</p> <p>Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the landlord is your council or authority; and• the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.•
<p>Securities⁹</p>

⁸ Updated in September 2013.

⁹ Means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the [Financial Services and Markets Act 2000](#) and other securities of any

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where –
(a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
(b) either –
(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Table 2: Other Registrable Interests

You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:
a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
b) any body
(i) exercising functions of a public nature
(ii) any body directed to charitable purposes or
(iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

Appendix C - Dispensations

Reference to ‘dispensation’ in the code means under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011

If a you would like the authority to consider granting you a dispensation where you have a DPI or other Interest, you must make a prior written request to the Clerk. The grounds under which such an application will be considered are detailed below:

Dispensation grounds¹⁰

A dispensation may be granted only if, after having had regard to all relevant circumstances, the Monitoring Officer considers that—

- a. without the dispensation the number of Councillors prohibited from participating in any particular business, would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business, as to impede the transaction of the business;
- b. without the dispensation the representation of different political groups on the body transacting any particular business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to the business;
- c. granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area;
- d. without the dispensation each member of the authority's executive would be prohibited from participating in any particular business to be transacted by the authority's executive, or
- e. considers that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

A dispensation must specify the period for which it has effect, and the period specified may not exceed four years.

description, other than money deposited with a building society.

¹⁰ The full wording for the statutory grounds for a DPI dispensation can be found under section 33 Localism Act 2011

APPENDIX B

Luton Airport Expansion Plan Consultation 8th Feb to 4th April 2022.

5) Which of the following best reflects the extent to which you support or oppose the expansion of London Luton Airport? Please select one option: Strongly support, Slightly support, Neutral, Slightly oppose, **Strongly oppose, Don't know. Please provide us with the reasons for your response.**

1. No credible business case

- The ~~negative~~ impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, Brexit and the Climate Crisis has reduced the need and desire for more flights.
 - People are choosing to travel less for pleasure
 - Business travel has declined significantly as businesses have got used to online meetings, saving time and money on unnecessary flights and hotels etc.
 - The UK has become less attractive to European Union economic migrants so there is less demand for flights to and from these destinations

2. Noise.

- Noise was the main issue reported by residents in a survey Kings Walden Parish Council conducted this month to canvas residents' views on the proposed airport expansion plans. Noise was a problem for residents in 2019; expansion would inevitably lead to more noise. Residents have reported:
 - Regularly disrupted sleep
 - Not being able to hear conversations in person or on the phone
 - Difficulties caused by noise when working from home (which is now the norm for many)
 - Noise negatively impacting on their enjoyment of leisure time in their homes, gardens and out walking
 - Noise disturbs wildlife which in turn disturbs residents
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) Environmental Noise Guidelines October 2018 states that, 'Environmental noise is an important public health issue, featuring among the top environmental risks to health. It has negative impacts on human health and well-being.' In the section on aircraft noise, it states, 'For average noise exposure, the GDG strongly recommends reducing noise levels produced by aircraft below 45 dB Lden., as aircraft noise above this level is associated with adverse health effects. Strong For night noise exposure, the GDG strongly recommends reducing noise levels produced by aircraft during night time below 40 dB Lnight., as night-time aircraft noise above this level is associated with adverse effects on sleep.' The NHS reports that, regular poor sleep puts you at risk of serious medical conditions, including obesity, coronary heart disease and diabetes – and it shortens your life expectancy (<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sleep-and-tiredness/why-lack-of-sleep-is-bad-for-your-health/>)
- In the first lockdown the lack of noise from ground operations was noticeable. A second, closer terminal will bring even more constant noise closer to residents
- Noise monitoring carried out in Breachwood Green in 2019 showed that even the newer, supposedly quieter, Neo aircraft were not in fact quieter over Breachwood Green. Also, measuring average noise hides the noisy spikes that can be more disruptive.
- Double glazing, offered to those who live within particular noise contours, will not help on a hot summer's day when people will want to have their windows open or when wanting to spend time outside in the garden / countryside.
- The noise from aircrafts isn't the only issue, they cause vibrations within houses directly under the flight path.

- The airport cannot control the modernisation of fleets and noise levels will increase during the coming years not decrease if the number of flights increase by the 40% envisaged by the plan.

3. Environmental Concerns.

- Kerosene planes are bad for the environment. No one has yet come up with a greener alternative that is commercially viable.
- Residents complain about the smell of aviation fuel, and the air quality in the areas surrounding the airport. This will only worsen with expansion.
- Global warming is a critical issue facing the world; emissions must be decreased, not increased by more flights.
- Any increase in passenger numbers is in conflict with the Government's commitment to reach net Zero by 2050.
- Building on Wigmore Valley Park is an unnecessary destruction of established and mature wildlife habitats. It takes many years for an area like that to establish, and at a time where environmental concerns are high on everyone's minds, this isn't an appropriate decision.
- The excavation required for the expansion will remove most of Wigmore Valley Park and the landfill site on which the park was built some 50 years ago. No one fully knows what will be dug up, but with the prevailing westerly wind, communities to the east of the site will be exposed to the noise of the construction vehicles, dust and possibly even contaminated material.
- The proposal to use farmland for the expansion is worrying. Once farmland is taken out of agriculture, it never comes back. There is a global food shortage which will get significantly worse because of the crisis in Ukraine. Moreover, the cost of importing food, further impacts on the environment and increases global warming. Wildlife living in and around the farmland will move on. Villages, and village life, in our parish will be negatively affected.
- Losing Green Belt Land for the expansion goes against Green Belt Policy. It is not as simple as just moving a green space.

4. Affordability

Luton Borough Council has a duty of care to its residents and needs to diversify its income-generating and local employment strategy, with a policy of promoting and supporting green industry. It is making plans to spend money that it does not have on an airport expansion development that isn't necessary.

5. Traffic and road system.

- A big concern of our residents is traffic congestion. Junction 10 of the M1 and the roads around the airport were already congested in 2019 at almost 19 million passengers.
- Any expansion will cause more congestion on roads that already cannot cope with the amount of traffic. It is hard to see a benefit to local residents who will struggle to get to where they need to every day with further congestion from an airport expansion.
- Many of the roads close to the airport, that passengers use to access Luton Airport, are single track country lanes that are not designed for the levels of traffic that they already get. The expansion proposal doesn't address the increased impact any expansion will have on these country lanes, and the villages that they run through.
- The expansion plans say that 45% of passengers will use public transport. Even if this is true, that still leaves more than half the airport's passengers travelling by road. In any case, whilst North and South rail routes are available, these are not an option for those travelling to the airport from the East and West.

- Some passengers already park their cars in Breachwood Green free of charge when they fly from Luton. This causes a nuisance for residents and visitors where road parking is the only option for some who do not have a drive. There will no doubt be an increase in the occurrence.
- The area around the airport is mostly residential, and includes several schools and places of work. The increase in traffic and congestion during the expansion, and after, would be huge. This would also cause extra noise and air pollution.

6. Lack of trust in the airport.

- Residents do not trust the airport. It has consistently broken agreed noise limits and agreed phased growth. In particular, the lack of restraint regarding night flights is a cause for concern.
- There is a clear conflict of interest with Luton Rising being owned by a sole shareholder Luton Borough Council who is the planning authority
- Luton Borough Council and Luton Airport are already in debt, and further loans are being negotiated. It is hard to see how this is a solid business plan to go forward.
- The proposals include some lovely pictures of the airport development, but the surrounding area shown is not correct and is therefore misleading. There are miles of hedgerows and wildlife areas shown that are not on land owned by Luton Rising. These do not exist currently, and liaison with the landowners has not happened. It is unlikely that landowners would plant hedging for Luton Airport when there is no benefit to them and the cost of maintaining this planting will also fall to them.

7. Light Pollution

- The effect of the lights at Luton Airport should not be underestimated. It affects people sleep, and that of the wildlife.
- These bright lights interfere with the viewing of sunsets and the stars in the night sky already. A second terminal closer to the parish would increase the light pollution in the area.

Why grow?

6) Do you have any comments on our Draft Need Case which sets out the reasons for our proposal to expand the airport?

- The Draft Need Case is based on out-of-date information which does not take into account the negative impact on air travel of Covid 19 and Brexit
- The Environment: airport expansion does not make any sense when the world is facing a climate crisis and Government has committed to Net Zero by 2050.
- More Jobs and Levelling Up: Luton Borough Council should look at diversifying the industries in the area, particularly green, sustainable businesses and technologies.
- Funding issues: The airport has borrowed hundreds of millions of pounds and already has to pay a substantial amount to service the interest on its existing debts.
- Location: the location of the airport, on a hill, means expansion requires expensive and extensive earth moving.

Benefits of expansion

7) Do you have any comments or suggestions for how we might maximise employment, skills, community and social benefits and training opportunities to help benefit neighbouring communities?

Listen to local residents who know and understand the area. Put finance into developing jobs and industries outside of the airport. Maximise the potential of the airport as it is now, and the current terminal, to create new employment.

Our proposed design for the airport

8) We have made changes to our design since the 2019 statutory consultation. Do you have any comments on our design proposals for the scheme?

Kings Walden Parish Council and the overwhelming majority of its residents strongly oppose expansion to 32 million passengers, the disposal of Wigmore Valley Park and the loss of valuable farmland in North Hertfordshire.

Getting to the airport

9) Do you have any comments on our proposed Getting to and from the airport – emerging transport strategy? Do you have any suggestions for how we can maximise access to the airport by public/sustainable transport modes?

At present only 14% of passengers travel to the airport by public transport. Without an East West rail link only passengers travelling North South are able to travel by rail. Further expansion will therefore result in additional traffic into an already congested local road network, which will also increase pollutants and decrease air quality.

As mentioned before, many of the roads in North Hertfordshire that passengers will use to access Luton Airport are single track country lanes which will not be able to cope with the increase in traffic that the airport expansion will provide.

Building our airport

10) We propose to construct the scheme in two phases. Phase 1 would include expansion of the existing Terminal 1 and additional aircraft stands and car parking. Phase 2 would see the construction of Terminal 2 and associated facilities. Do you have any comments on our proposals for constructing the scheme?

The existing expansion permission, granted in 2013, still has seven years to run and has not yet delivered on its promised noise mitigations; any further expansion is not warranted at this time.

11) Our proposals also include a Draft Code of Construction Practice which sets out in draft the measures we will take to minimise the effects of construction. Is there anything else you would like us to consider as part of this?

The best way of minimising the impact of construction is to not expand the airport.

The environment

12) Do you have any comments on the environmental effects of expansion and how we propose to manage and mitigate them?

Airport expansion would have a significant detrimental effect on the environment. Airlines choose their own

fleet and even the newer, more fuel-efficient planes have been found to be just as noisy as older versions.

The Noise and Vibration chapter states that by 2043 there would be 70% more flights at night (between 11pm and 7am) and 50% more during the day. This would have a significant, negative impact on the health and quality of life of Kings Walden Parish residents. Luton Rising plans to significantly increase the number of flights scheduled between 6:00 and 07:00 and between 23:00 and 23:30. This is a substantial increase in night flights (11pm-7am).

The proposed double-glazing schemes are open only to residents who live in specific noise contours and even if they were appropriate (they may not be allowed for Grade II Listed buildings, of which there are quite a few). This would not help on a hot summer night when it is more comfortable to sleep with the windows open. Nor would double glazing help when residents wish to make use of their gardens and the local countryside.

An expanded airport means more light pollution for residents, impacting on quality of life and sleep. The proposed screening plans rely on the co-operation of other land owners for whom the benefit is questionable. Also, any planted screening takes time to grow and will require expensive management.

Taking over Wigmore Valley Park will destroy established diverse plants and wildlife. Moving the park into North Hertfordshire and making it 10% bigger, planting wildflower meadows etc does not offset this. Habitats take time to establish, and the detrimental effect on wildlife cannot be undervalued. The wildlife will not simply relocate to the new park which in any case will take time to build and mature enough to accommodate it.

13) Do you have any comments on our Green Controlled Growth approach?

Your documents state that GCG will introduce binding limits for the airport's noise, carbon, air quality and surface access impacts, and that crucially, these environmental limits are not airy aspirations, but would be legally binding, and independently monitored. However, the airport has consistently ignored legal limits in the past. Why then should we trust that GCG will do what it says when this has been promised again and again, and again and again, legally binding limits have been ignored and without consequences.

Open space

14) Do you have any comments on our open space and landscaping proposals? Is there anything else you would like us to incorporate?

Relocating a Luton park, that is there to serve the Luton residents, into land in North Hertfordshire takes the park further away from the people it is for, meaning most, if not all of them, will have to drive to drive to reach the park. It will involve the destruction of mature vegetation and wildlife habitats. Where will the wildlife go? They will not simply relocate to the new park which in any case will take time to build and for the vegetation to mature.

Destroying valuable agricultural land in order to relocate the park does mean the reduction and destruction of open space. Also, the agricultural land that the new park will be built on is not being relocated and this is a huge loss to the area and let us not forget that a loss in agricultural land will also affect employment in farming. Taking land out of agriculture does not make sense either, given the war in Ukraine which produces 40% of Europe's grain.

Compensation and Community First Funding

15) Do you have any comments on our proposed compensation policies and measures?

Noise insulation is not appropriate to all properties within the parameters of the specified noise contours. Double-glazing is only effective when windows are closed, which they will not be on a hot summer day or night. On a hot summer night, residents' sleep will be disturbed by the noise (windows open) or by the heat (windows closed). It also does not help when residents wish to be outside.

Any land or property acquisition scheme, however generous, is no compensation for the loss of a person's or family's home and community. People have chosen to live in Kings Walden Parish, many choosing to live there despite their being an airport close by. They didn't choose to live there with it being as close as the proposals show.

We have residents who wish to take out equity release on their properties and have been turned down due to their property's close proximity to Luton Airport. The airport being closer will only exacerbate issues like this.

16) Do you have any comments about our proposals for the Community First scheme?

It is hard to see how the proposals for the expansion are putting the residents of Kings Walden Parish first.

Further comments

17) Do you have any other comments about our proposals to expand London Luton Airport?

Kings Walden Parish Council urge you to listen to residents' comments, and consider the negative impact that an expansion will have on the land surrounding the airport and its residents.