



Press Release: Monday, June 18 2018

LAAG requests new noise assessment for proposed flight path adjustments and resumption of Airport Consultancy Committee meetings

LAAG has written to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) requesting a fresh noise assessment in light of Lydd Airport's proposal to make changes to the existing runway 21 Instrument Approach Procedures (arrival flight paths in the direction of Lydd from Dymchurch, Littlestone, Greatstone) to accommodate its proposed development. This will mean that aircraft will be lower above any given point on the ground underneath the runway 21 approaches than they are currently.

Lydd Airport justifies not undertaking a noise assessment on the basis that an Environment Impact Assessment covering noise impacts was conducted for the public inquiry as part of the planning process. However, the public inquiry was in 2011 (February – September) which means much of the information is inadequate given the standards that are now applied to airspace change proposals, and no longer representative, due to the scale of housing development under the approach paths since 2010/2011. A fresh noise impact assessment is required.

LAAG also called on the CAA to compel Lydd Airport to resume the convening of Airport Consultative Committees. The government expects all airports to communicate openly with local communities about the impact of their operations through these committees. During the planning process Lydd Airport hosted Consultative Committee meetings but has refused to engage with the wider local community since the approval of the planning application in 2013.

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Notes to editors:

- Lydd Airport is located less than 3 miles from the Dungeness Nuclear Power Complex (height restriction of 2000ft) and less than 2 miles and 8 miles respectively from the Lydd (D044) and Hythe (D141) Military Ranges (respective height restrictions of 4000ft and 3200ft).
- Lydd Airport submitted a planning application in December 2006 to both extend its runway by 444metres and build a new terminal to accommodate up to 500,000 passengers per annum (ppa.). This is Phase 1 of a Master Plan ambition to increase passenger numbers to 2m ppa. The decision to grant planning permission was made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Secretary of State for Transport on April 10th 2013. High Court appeals by LAAG and the RSPB in early 2014 were not successful. High Court Appeals do not examine the merits of the facts.
- Lydd Airport's development was strongly opposed by a wide range of national conservation and local groups on environmental and nuclear safety grounds.
- **On development no other regional airport in Europe and possibly the world will be as close to a nuclear power complex.**
- LAAG is an action group formed in 2004 to oppose the large scale development of Lydd airport. Since 2014 LAAG has been monitoring developments at the airport.