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Councillor Martin Tett  
Bucks County Council  
County Hall  
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Dear Mr Tett

**Re: Proposed airport expansion at Heathrow**

I have seen your response on the Richings Park Residents Association website, to a letter which sought the Council's commitment to ensuring the interests of Richings Park (RP) residents were supported and protected by the Council during the forthcoming consultations, reviews and discussions associated with aviation expansion.

I was astounded that you say on a subject as major and significant as Heathrow airport expansion, the Council does not have a formal policy? So I suggest the Council prepares a consultation policy very quickly and that it takes into account the great concerns of the residents of RP, Iver and the South Bucks area.

How could BCC not have a policy on this major proposal, but was still able to contribute to SASIG's appraisal framework response? So you responded to SASIG, but not the Davies Commission?

Your letter refers to "impact on national and Buckinghamshire economy, relying on a prosperous Heathrow airport". First of all – this cannot be at any cost. Secondly if the 3<sup>rd</sup> runway were not to be located at Heathrow, the local economy would still be maintained.

Your response seemed to convey a stronger concern for the economic benefits of Heathrow Airports Limited, than the detrimental impact on the wider community. Is this the case?

We should learn from the recent catastrophe caused by the floods in February. Two of the worst areas affected, Wraysbury and Datchet, are within a few miles of where a new runway and all the infrastructure that goes with it, is proposed. The Colne valley around Horton was severely impacted. Is the council not concerned enough to have a policy that prevents this?

The current debate over air quality in London (highlighted by the Sahara sand issue), where the EU is taking legal action over the UK's air quality, cannot go unheeded. Not only are the deaths from the mix of pollution are now being quantified, but also other chronic conditions that it causes. The latest UN warning on climate change says the impacts are likely to be "severe, pervasive and irreversible". Air quality around Heathrow has dangerously high levels (eg Hillingdon NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations consistently above the EU limit of 40ug/m<sup>3</sup> every year and PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations above 120ug/m<sup>3</sup> (high) on at least 16 days of this year, with six target exceedances so far.)

Locally for RP – you should be aware that under the submitted proposals areas of RP would be demolished and the community decimated.

Should an additional runway be needed then why would you build under and across the M25, move the junction with the M4, when all you need to do is build a runway at Gatwick without the additional cost and disruption?

Therefore, BCC must have a policy and it should be one that protects the interests of affected communities in its boundaries before economic expansion.

Yours sincerely

**William Fell**