

Farnborough Airport – Planning Application for Expanded Air Operations
Rushmoor Borough Council Reference: 25/00615/REV

Long Sutton & Well Parish Council - DETAILED OBJECTION

Long Sutton & Well Parish Council, acknowledge the reduction in the proposed increase of non-weekday flights from 18,900 to 13,500 annually, this still represents a substantial rise from the current 8,900. The request to increase heavier aircraft movements from 270 to 405 per year, though less than previously proposed, remains a concern, particularly as these flights (driven by demand) are likely to occur during weekends and holidays.

The Parish Council continues to receive significant complaints from residents regarding the frequency and type of aircraft overflights destined for Farnborough Airport, especially on Fridays, weekends, and holidays. These concerns focus on environmental impacts, including noise and light pollution.

KEY OBJECTION POINTS

- Increase in Non-Weekday Flights: The proposed 65% rise in flights from the current 8,900 during weekends and holidays will further impact our community through increased noise and disruption.
- Frequency of Overflights: Aircraft approach movements are already frequent, with up to one every few minutes during peak periods. The location of Long Sutton & Well on the main approach path exacerbates these effects. Additionally, most likely due to the chosen runway direction, it is noteworthy that when the winds are calm or from the east, as was the case for an extended period during this most recent summer, then the effects of Farnborough Airport destined aircraft overflight of our community was most keenly felt to an unacceptable level.
- Environmental Pollution: The community does not benefit from airport air quality monitoring, despite low-altitude overflights. Increased flight numbers will worsen air pollution and associated health risks.
- Heavier Aircraft Movements: Allowing more flights by heavier aircraft, including older models, will intensify noise and environmental pollution, despite assurances regarding noise standards.

Additionally, the proposed expansion appears inconsistent with national climate objectives, including the requirement to reduce aviation emissions by 45% by 2030 and the prohibition of aviation growth until emissions are declining. Studies show business jets produce significantly

higher CO2 emissions per passenger compared to commercial flights¹, and technological solutions such as biofuels and electric aircraft are unlikely to offset these impacts in the near term.

While we note the intent of Farnborough Airport to expand the geographical area covered by the Social Value Fund more widely to include affected communities, the scale of the fund is insufficient to meaningfully address the adverse impacts on any community let alone Long Sutton & Well.

In summary, the Parish Council strongly objects to the planning application as currently presented, citing significant environmental and social concerns.