



[www.stopstanstedexpansion.com](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com)  
[info@stopstanstedexpansion.com](mailto:info@stopstanstedexpansion.com)

PO Box 311  
Takeley  
Bishops Stortford  
Herts CM22 6PY  
Tel: 01279 870558  
Fax: 01279 870786

23 March 2018

Dear Supporter

### **Planning Application by Stansted Airport**

I am taking the highly unusual step of writing to you for a second time in the space of just two weeks. I am doing so because events are so fast moving. We have now learned that Uttlesford District Council (UDC) has struck an agreement with the Manchester Airports Group (MAG), to decide the current Stansted Airport planning application by 18 July. MAG has agreed to pay UDC £117,781 (+VAT) for this 'fast track' service.

For reasons explained more fully below, SSE has little doubt that UDC is determined to approve the current airport planning application, subject only to agreeing a satisfactory level of financial contributions from MAG towards local road improvements and other projects which will contribute towards the realisation of the challenging housing development targets in the Draft Uttlesford Local Plan.

SSE's evidence for this depressing assessment of UDC's position is included in a 36-page submission sent earlier this week to the Secretary of State requesting his intervention to take this planning application out of UDC's hands and designate it as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) for more detailed scrutiny and examination at national level. The submission to the Secretary of State, which was drafted in conjunction with SSE's legal advisers, is available to read on the SSE website at [www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/documents/SSE-Letter-to-Secretary-of-State-19March2018.pdf](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/documents/SSE-Letter-to-Secretary-of-State-19March2018.pdf).

Our concerns are not just related to the way in which UDC is rushing through this complex and lengthy (2,930 pages) planning application. Based on an accumulation of evidence over the past 12 months – some of this obtained by SSE under the Freedom of Information Act – we believe that UDC is almost certain to approve MAG's planning application regardless of the level of local concern, regardless of the impacts on local communities through increased aircraft noise and pollution, and regardless of the additional traffic congestion on local roads.

Even if UDC councillors were to refuse the planning application for expansion, as they did unanimously – and against Planning Officers' advice – in 2006, MAG would immediately appeal that decision to the Secretary of State, and thus have two bites at the cherry. We want to limit MAG to one bite.

In our letter to the Secretary of State we have had to make it absolutely clear that if he is not prepared to take the decision out of UDC's hands by 'calling in' this planning application for national determination, we shall test the matter in the High Court by seeking a Judicial Review. We have given the Secretary of State until Friday 20 April to respond.

*Patron: Terry Waite CBE*

*Stop Stansted Expansion is a working group of the North West Essex and East Herts Preservation Association*