

## **Bristol Airport planning application**

Butcombe Parish Council is preparing a formal response to Bristol Airport's planning application (reference: 18/P/5118/OUT) to permit growth to 12 million passengers per annum in time for the consultation deadline of 26 January 2019. However the Parish Council has already identified a number of areas of concern directly affecting Butcombe that residents might like to consider in their own consultation responses. These are listed below –

- We are concerned that this planning application has been submitted before completion of Bristol Airport's own Master Plan for long term growth to 20 million passengers a year by the 2040s. This current application is a first staging post in this longer term expansion and is therefore considered premature without a published final Master Plan.
- Traffic generated by Bristol Airport contributes to the existing serious congestion of both the local road network and the A38. Excessive traffic is already impacting significantly on local quality of life, and also contributes to wider Airport generated noise and air pollution. Expansion to 12 million passengers a year will represent an increase of some 50% on 2017 levels. This will only further increase the visible daily congestion already blighting the locality, and the minor traffic mitigation measures contained in the planning application are highly unlikely to resolve this, particularly without significant major investment in public transport and road infrastructure. This is very unlikely to happen any time soon.
- Butcombe already suffers increasingly from the scourge of unauthorised Airport car parking. This results in significant noise and light disturbance to residents, as well as causing adverse visual intrusion to the local rural landscape, and also resulting in the creation of dangerous vehicular 'rat runs' by operators along inappropriate rural lanes. Some Airport visitors now park cars on country lanes for the duration of their holidays. The extra on-site parking provision proposed in the application appears unlikely to cope with the significant extra demand from 12 million passengers a year who mostly come by car, resulting in further unauthorised parking and its associated problems.
- The area around the Airport, including roads and lanes in Butcombe, is increasingly used by private cars and taxis waiting to collect passengers arriving at the Airport. This results in cars parking illegally and inconsiderately, and potentially jeopardising emergency vehicle access. It also brings with it the scourge of litter & detritus dropped from waiting vehicles, for example in New Road leading off the A38 near Redhill. Expansion to 12 million passengers a year can only increase this.
- The new car parking proposal in the application on the south side of the Airport will further intrude into North Somerset's valuable Green Belt. Once lost, this can never be replaced and it will contribute to a gradual change of the attractive rural character around the Airport and Butcombe into an industrial landscape.
- Butcombe Parish Council has been surprised by the recent appearance of a new Operational Building in a very visually prominent position on the south side of the Airport. This is already

adversely affecting enjoyment of the local rural landscape. This building was apparently allowed under permitted development planning rules within the Airport boundary. The expansion of the Airport in this planning application could therefore open the door for other visually intrusive permitted development buildings to appear within its boundary in the future.

- Butcombe Parish Council accepts that the Airport at its current level is important to the local economy and to passenger customers. However there are real concerns that further expansion is not sustainable given the Airport's very poor location for public transport and the consequent huge increase in vehicle numbers on a traffic infrastructure that is already struggling at over-capacity.

## HOW TO COMMENT

The deadline for comment is **26 January 2019**. Whatever your views on the Airport, it is important to have your say on this significant planning application that could affect you in the future

For full documentation and to comment go to the North Somerset Council website planning at <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/planning-building-control/planning/commenting-on-applications/lookatplanningapplications/>

This page gives you information on how to make a comment. To find the application documents click on 'Search for an Application' and enter the reference number **18/P/5118/OUT**

Alternatively you can email your comments to [planningsupport@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:planningsupport@n-somerset.gov.uk) copied to [dmscanningrequests@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:dmscanningrequests@n-somerset.gov.uk)

or write to: Department, North Somerset Council, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston super Mare BS23 1UJ

Make sure you enter the reference number **18/P/5118/OUT** for the application

You can also copy in your local MP and local councillor. Go to <https://www.theyworkforyou.com> to find your MP's email address.

Your local councillor's email address can be found on the Council website at <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-council/councillors/councillor/find-your-councillors/list-of-councillors/?LGNTF=188>

You can also email a copy to the following North Somerset councillors who are likely to be influential in considering the application:

- Leader of North Somerset Council Nigel Aston. [nigel.ashton@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.ashton@n-somerset.gov.uk)
- Council Elfan Ap Rees responsible for transport and economics [elfan.ap.rees@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:elfan.ap.rees@n-somerset.gov.uk)