

PRESS RELEASE

FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE AIRPORT ACTION GROUP (GAAG)

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Vigil for the Return of Common Sense

On Monday 3rd March 6:30pm Gloucester City Council's scrutiny committee will meet and appear minded to approve the expansion of Gloucestershire Airport. It seems like common sense at the Council is on extended leave. Opponents of the Airport plan will gather outside the meeting, holding a candle lit vigil for the return of common sense. They will launch a report that thoroughly refutes the Council's case for the development, giving gifts of common sense to the Councillors as they arrive at the meeting.

The Concerned residents Against Staverton Expansion (CASE) report, 'Gloucestershire Airport Expansion Project' presents a consistent case against the runway extension. The report is being launched to counter the Council's own scrutiny report which favours the plan. Neil Marshall of CASE said, "Currently Councillors are only looking at half the evidence. Any decision now would be half considered, half discussed and ultimately half baked"

Along with the CASE report Councillors will also be presented with gifts. Each elegantly wrapped gift contains a message putting forth the common sense reasons for stopping the Airport plan. Messages like:

- More and bigger planes is definitely expansion so let's stop pretending that the Airport development is a safety project
- By signing the Nottingham Declaration the Council committed itself to reducing carbon emissions but the Airport is heading in the opposite direction. Isn't that rather stupid?

The Airport's plan is opposed by David Drew MP and a broad coalition of Gloucestershire residents. Gloucester resident Bryan Meloy said, "It is particularly shocking that the press and public are to be excluded from the Council's airport debate. Are they a scrutiny committee or a rubber stamping committee?"

Photo Opportunity:

6:10pm at the entrance to City Hall – the North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester. Protesters posing with extravagant presents and placards hold a candle lit vigil hoping that common sense will be restored to their elected representatives.

Notes For Editor:

[1] The Concerned residents Against Staverton Expansion have a website giving an excellent account of their objections to the Airport's plans. See www.case-online.org.uk. Their report 'Gloucestershire Airport Expansion Project' is available:
http://www.case-online.org.uk/docs/JASWG_Response_001.pdf

[2] David Drew MP has consistently opposed the Airport plan, making a speech at last year's Camp Hope protest against the development. He was not involved in organising the common sense themed protest.

[3] Following the vigil protesters will also be attending the scrutiny meeting to ask public questions about the development. Currently the agenda states that the later discussion of the airport plan is to exclude the press and public