

Edenbridge blighted by aircraft noise, MP tells Gatwick boss

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by **Luke King**

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EXPANSION at Gatwick should be put on ice because residents of Edenbridge and surrounding villages remain “blighted” by aircraft noise, a local MP has said.

Responding to the West Sussex airport’s Draft Master Plan 2018, Tom Tugendhat, MP for Edenbridge and Tonbridge and Malling, also complained of a lack of infrastructure servicing Britain’s second largest airport.

In a letter to Gatwick boss Stewart Wingate, Mr Tugendhat wrote: “Despite having to bear the noise impact of the majority of arriving flights over the county, just 7.4 per cent of passengers at Gatwick are from Kent.

“Kent is an area which could benefit from a direct and reliable train service to help get millions more passengers to and from the airport. However, without significant investment in the Tonbridge-Redhill line, this growth won’t be achieved.

“Until Gatwick comes to an agreement with GTR and the Department for Transport to run direct services between Tonbridge, Edenbridge and Gatwick airport to enable passengers from south west Kent, the ones most affected by the noise impacts of growth, to reach the airport in a much timelier manner, I am unable to support the master plan.”

Mr Tugendhat said he was not opposed to Gatwick’s continued success, but concluded: “Residents of Tonbridge, Edenbridge and surrounding villages are all blighted by the impact of noise, particularly in the summer when there are more air traffic movements.

“This is a fundamental issue and one which must be addressed before any further growth [at Gatwick] takes place.”

Mr Tugendhat said he cannot support the proposals contained in Gatwick’s master plan.



MP Tom Tugendhat, pictured right with transport secretary Chris Grayling, said residents in Edenbridge were among those ‘most affected’ by noise from Gatwick airport