

Leeds Bradford Airport expansion – planning application: ref 20/02559/FU

Horsforth Town Council is unable to support the application in its current format and objects because of the following concerns:

- Concern that the building of the new terminal will be used as a reason to extend operating hours or flight numbers
- Detrimental effects on the local population in terms of noise and pollution
- Lack of clarity over whether the application is about the terminal only or also includes expansion of flights and passenger numbers, something that has not been agreed by Leeds City Council
- The contradiction between Leeds City Council and Horsforth Town Council declaring a climate emergency and the expansion of the airport with its effect on the carbon footprint
- Whether it is appropriate to consider expansion at this time of uncertainty during the Covid 19 crisis
- The burden on transport links that would arise if flights and passenger numbers are increased
- Changes to current hours for early morning and night flights.

Given that Leeds City Council and Horsforth Town Council have declared a climate emergency, Horsforth Town Council must object to any expansion to flights and passenger numbers at Leeds Bradford Airport. The Town Council also points out that the air travel industry is in serious decline due to the Covid 19 crisis and argues that the timing of the application is wrong; there is surely a need to wait and see what happens post crisis?

The application refers to extension of time to early morning and night flights, to 6am rather than the current 7am, and 11.30pm rather than the current 11.00pm. This suggests an expansion of operating hours and flight numbers to and from the airport. Despite the use of quieter aircraft during night hours, there are already serious noise issues for residents living close to the airport which the expansion of operating hours will exacerbate. Further, extending operating hours will lead to an increase in air pollution, both from the flights and the increase in traffic. Noise and poor air quality have a known detrimental effect on health.

Horsforth Town Council therefore objects to the application.

However, if the application is approved by the local planning authority notwithstanding these objections, Horsforth Town Council would ask that any approval be subject to conditions:

- The airport should still only be allowed to use the quieter planes that are as per the night time specification during the extended hours, i.e. the aircraft would not be any noisier than current night-time flights.

- Confirmation that any added flights would be the newer, most environmentally friendly aircraft only.
- A guarantee that the already rejected link road scheme will not be reconsidered as part of any future plans. Extra traffic to and from the airport therefore remains a serious issue as there is no infrastructure in place to handle this traffic currently which potentially causes extensive problems in Horsforth.
- Reassurance that any future rail infrastructure will not impinge on green belt land.

Horsforth Town Council welcomes development that will bring economic growth and jobs to the area, but not at the substantial cost to the environment and the health and wellbeing of the community that the current application would appear to entail.

Horsforth Town Council