


SAVE MANSTON AIRPORT



Make a difference to your community
and help save our airport!

-  Facebook Group: Search for “**Save Manston Airport**”
-  Twitter: **@SaveManston** or **#SaveManston**
-  Email: **savemanstonairport@outlook.com**

Please check our website or Facebook page for petitions and our latest events and news.

Help to create employment for the coming generations and associated businesses within East Kent and beyond.

www.savemanstonairport.com



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The Current Situation:

- We have formed an action group to return Manston back to a popular, viable regional airfield. Over 19,000 of our supporters have signed one petition alone.
- We have had the invaluable help and support of local MPs Sir Roger Gale and Laura Sandys, as well as political cross-party backing of MPs and councillors.
- The closure has resulted in the loss of 140 jobs and has affected a number of associated businesses. The Museums remain open but their future is uncertain.
- The current owner of the airport, Ann Gloag (co-founder of the Stagecoach Group) rejected bids (including one at the asking price) for the airport from an experienced company determined to make the airport work.
- It appears the owners might want to use the site for housing or a "Garden City".
- At present Thanet District Council, with Iris Johnston as the new leader who fully supports the airport, is considering a Compulsory Purchase Order, supported by a 7,800 strong petition.
- We believe that the area needs a thriving airport, jobs before houses, and an airport owner who will invest, advertise and involve us as a community.

Facts about Manston:

- Former RAF Manston Airport is almost 100 years old and played an important role through both world wars and the Cold War. It is also home to the Spitfire & Hurricane and RAF Manston museums.
- It has one of the longest and widest runways in the country making it invaluable as a diversionary airport for aircraft in difficulties and also when sending Humanitarian Aid abroad.
- Regularly used for flight testing and crew training including recently the British Airways' A380 & 787 Dreamliners.
- Popular with cargo and freight carriers because of the quick turnaround by the excellent ground staff and latest handling equipment.
- It is one of the few airports in the country to hold a licence for the dismantling & recycling of aircraft.
- Bristow Helicopters are due to be based at Manston in 2015 to run the new Search and Rescue service.
- Manston air shows have attracted thousands of visitors and Manston is used as a base for other air shows including use by the Red Arrows.
- It is an airport close to Europe with excellent new road & rail links that make it quicker to fly from than other London airports, and is close to two ports.
- Manston could be used as a freight/small packet air-road-rail-sea hub (whilst still including passenger services), taking some away from the London airports. This would then free up valuable runway space at Heathrow and Gatwick.

Myths about Manston:

Myth: Manston has a poor Catchment Area:

- If you define a catchment area as the region within which you can get to your final destination quicker via Manston Airport than any other airport, then this extends north of all the main railway stations in London and West to the M23. We have documentation and video of actual on-road/virtual flight comparisons.
- For perishable cargo, at Manston, cargo planes land without stacking, full loads are unloaded and on the way to the M25 with aircraft back in the air within 80 minutes. At other airports they would still be sitting uncooled and degrading.

Myth: Owners cannot make a profit:

- The current owner only ran Manston for 5 months, 2 weeks, 2 days before announcing the closure "consultation"?
- How much did the recent airport operators spend on advertising Manston Airport in London and the South-East? When did you last see an advert for Manston Airport on a London Tube train telling you that you would be at your destination quicker via Manston Airport? Did any travel agent you have used even know you could fly to nearly anywhere in the world from Manston?
- The previously rejected purchaser, RiverOak, still state they have developed a long term plan to own and manage Manston as an airport. "It remains committed to investing in and developing Manston as a successful diversified aviation services, cargo and potential future passenger airport facility, and values Manston as an important piece of aviation infrastructure that is very important to both Kent specifically and the United Kingdom in general ..."

Myth: Extensive night flights would be required:

- Night flights are not popular with passengers, and the day time flights could be considerably expanded without the need for night flights.
- RiverOak confirmed they see no need for more night flights at Manston Airport and that former operators including CargoLux would not need night flights and would happily continue on previous agreements.

Myth: Passenger services have failed:

- KLM ran a very successful cross-channel hop to Schiphol Hub, two return flights a day, for over a year. Flights to Europe and world-wide via this hub were quicker and cheaper than via other airports. Often flights were nearly full.
- The closure "consultation" was announced on the very day government support was announced for establishing new air-routes - Southend has already benefited - this could have been Manston!
- Manston Airport now has excellent HS1 high-speed rail links 8 minutes away by taxi from Ramsgate station to Ashford International and Central London (to be further upgraded this Autumn), plus recently completed dual-carriageway roads from Manston Airport boundary fence across Kent and into Central London.