

## PRESS RELEASE

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### IT'S NOT US – IT'S THE GOVERNMENT

BAA's blight proposals are published today<sup>i</sup>. These are supposedly designed to protect the communities around Heathrow Airport from blight before a decision is made whether or not to obliterate<sup>ii</sup> them by building a 3<sup>rd</sup> runway and 6<sup>th</sup> Terminal at Heathrow Airport. However BAA has absolutely no responsibility for replacing housing stock, schools, homes for the elderly nor the huge recreation areas its corporate greed will wipe off the map.

In December 2003 the Government demanded that airport operators publish such schemes which allows BAA to play the game 'it's not us – it's the Government.'

Christine Shilling, NoTRAG Press Secretary states 'for us here there may be little difference in outcome between a terrorist dropping a dirty bomb on our communities and the massive area scheduled for landgrab – for theft by BAA in their recent Master Plan. And now to compound the outrage we have this sneaky – do it my way or else paper promise! It's time uncomfortable questions were asked. Why is it that the premeditated annihilation of our communities for profit is not seen as an outrage? After all if our communities were bombed we'd get Government aid and massive regeneration grants. But when our communities are wiped out for greed it's somehow seen as acceptable. Although we will not incur the massive loss of life caused by recent terrorist bombs there will certainly be casualties. Many elderly won't survive the drastic upheaval to their lives and for those of us left behind they'll be trauma and depression as everything we've ever known is buried under concrete.

This immoral money driven outrage should be vetoed NOW! The human consequences of further expansion at Heathrow Airport are so severe that it should never ever be contemplated.'

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<sup>i</sup> A property bond is BAA's solution to the problem their corporate greed has caused. BAA 'promise' to buy the affected homes at 2002 full market value plus index linking providing householders act when BAA submits its planning application.

<sup>ii</sup> Sipson wiped off the map; nearly 800 homes destroyed; communities ripped apart; 9 schools unusable; local roads gridlocked; thousands of homes in West Drayton and Hayes subjected to noise levels of 66dBA and increase in pollution above EU limits; Harlington and Cranford left sandwiched between flight paths; Longford, Harmondsworth sandwiched between runways; 2 churches rendered unusable; ancient buildings bulldozed; extra misery for another 100,000 West Londoners.

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