

## **FOUND – WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION BAA Heathrow Interim Master Plan**

NoTRAG has always contended that BAA planned a 3<sup>rd</sup> short runway to be serviced by a 6<sup>th</sup> Terminal and that it intended massive land take – nothing less than the destruction of our communities. The BAA Heathrow Interim Master Plan confirms this.

We are NOT talking about blight or the need for compensation. We are talking about over two thousand people being forcibly evicted, thousands more left living in intolerable conditions subjected to increased noise and pollution and of another 100,000 people subjected to living under the new flight paths.

Geraldine Nicholson, NoTRAG Chair commented "There is nothing in this Interim Master Plan that is of any surprise - it's what is not in it that's the problem." She goes on to say "There is no mention of the 9 schools that will undoubtedly be affected; no mention of the 2000 homes north of the M4 that will have this runway on their doorstep; no mention of Harmondsworth, Harlington, Cranford and Longford becoming enclaves between all these runways; no mention of the road closures. The list goes on, the devil is not in the detail because there simply is no detail."

Christine Shilling, NoTRAG Press Secretary says "Yes an 11<sup>th</sup> Century Church and 14<sup>th</sup> Century Barn are 'saved' – but left adjacent to a major road which would be re-routed through Harmondsworth village making life here intolerable. BAA thinks saving the barn and church will placate us. It won't. How are we supposed to worship in a church that has planes screaming overhead every 30 seconds? How

can we visit the graves of our loved ones in peace? The aviation industry has rampaged through our communities unhindered for far too long. It has to be stopped – NOW! We'll remind the Prime Minister that SEERA<sup>i</sup> is publicly stating **a third runway at Heathrow 'is environmentally unsustainable and inconsistent with international policy.'**<sup>ii</sup> Even Rod Eddington, Chief Executive of British Airways is saying journeys of 3 hours or less should be made by train.<sup>iii</sup>

It is highly unlikely that the EU pollution targets will ever be met. However even this won't matter to this rapacious industry – because some ruse, fix and back-hander will sort it all out! After all, according to Mike Temple, Managing Director, BAA Heathrow "White Papers can be changed"<sup>iv</sup>, NoTRAG has a message for him - the fight will continue until a 3<sup>rd</sup> runway at Heathrow is removed from the agenda forever.

This is no Master Plan BAA – for us it is a weapon of mass destruction. You are destroying everything families have ever worked for. You are destroying communities: breaking people's links with friends, families, employment – planning how to forcibly evict men, women and children from their homes and quite unmoved that thousands more will be subjected to intolerable noise and pollution. If such outrage were occurring in Eastern Europe there'd be a public outcry.”

**ENDS**

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**Notes for editors**

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<sup>i</sup> South East England Regional Assembly

<sup>ii</sup> Mike Gwilliam, SEERA - see Cheap flights spark runway chaos – Observer 5<sup>th</sup> June 2005

<sup>iii</sup> Money problems killed off many of the big plans - The Sunday Times 5<sup>th</sup> June 2005

<sup>iv</sup> BAA Heathrow Interim Master Plan Press Briefing - 6<sup>th</sup> June 2005