

Enjoy the warm weather recently?

Enjoy the constant aircraft over Mentmore?

No? – then you must take action on the proposed flight paths over Mentmore and surrounding villages by 13 June 08

Say NO to lower flight paths, take offs and landings over Mentmore

What's happening?

New flightpaths are being proposed for the south and east of England, covering flights to and from Luton, Heathrow, Stansted, London City Airport and 59 smaller airfields. The proposals have been developed by National Air Traffic Services (NATS), the body that provides air traffic control services in the UK. NATS say changes are needed to existing flightpaths to reduce congestion now and in the future.

One of NATS' objectives is to reduce low flights over densely populated areas and route them over small, rural areas such as ours. They state:

"Improvements in fuel efficiency and minimising the number of people overflown below 7000ft were given greater priority than avoiding AONBs and National Parks."

This is why more flights could go over villages like Mentmore, Ledburn, Crafton and areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty like Ashridge and Tring Park. Some of these plans will have a detrimental effect on our villages, and will significantly increase noise and pollution levels for us and the surrounding areas.

Mentmore Parish Council has written to NATs, the CAA and John Bercow MP stating the following:

- Objecting to the proposed change in Luton Westerly departures to the North
- Supporting the option for Luton Easterly arrivals, rather than the proposed or current route

Bear in mind that Luton Airport has a 24 hour licence and so the number of flights through the night may well increase.

You can see the full effect, flight paths, altitudes, etc at www.nats.co.uk and type in your postcode. Its better to use a Cheddington Postcode of LU7 0SR to see the impact on Mentmore.

You really can make a difference – as every voice counts. People in towns and villages all around Herts, Bucks, Beds, Essex and Cambridgeshire are vigorously campaigning against the NATS proposals. Please play your part and make a difference; if we don't, we only have ourselves to blame.

Read overleaf - we have made this as easy as possible for you...

**Saying NO to these proposals
Involves a small amount of effort But
is a big investment in your future**

What you need to do ...

- 1 Write or email a letter to NATs setting out your comments/objections to arrive by 13 June** Send to: TCN Consultation, NATS, Freepost NAT22750, Reading, RG1 4BR or www.consultation.nats.co.uk/
Make this as factual and personal as you can, it carries more weight
Just objecting to more aircraft will not be effective
You need to state good reasons for your objections. Some suggestions below.
Useful websites with draft letters at www.wigginton.info or www.thelee.org.uk.
- 2 Write a letter to the Civil Aviation Authority** objecting to the way in which the Consultation has been carried out and copy to them your letter to NATS. Send to: J Arscott, Director of Aviation, Airspace Policy, Civil Aviation Authority, CAA House, K6 45-59 Kingsway, London Wc2B 6TE
- 3 Write to your MP: John Bercow** at The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

So, that's one letter to NATS, one to CAA, and one to John Bercow with copies of the NATS letter included to CAA and John Bercow.

A copy of the Parish Council letter to NATs and John Bercow can be obtained from clerk@mentmoreparish.org.uk or can be seen in the notice board outside the village hall

Key Points you may like to include in your letter on the process of the consultation:

- Poorly presented and too complex information for public to understand impact of proposals (eg altitude levels confusing)
- No public meetings held by NATS and no household mailshots.
- One source of information, the internet, not accessible to all.
- Proposals have taken 4 years to produce, yet the public has been given only 13 weeks in which to respond.

Key Points you may like to include in your letter on the facts included in the consultation document:

- No account has been taken of the scientifically proven increased impact of noise in rural, quiet villages and towns and that its disproportionately higher than ambient noise in towns
- Mentmore, Ledbury, Cratton, etc will be subjected to 67% of all departure take offs from Luton – why? As this illogical from an environmental perspective
- Luton has a 24 hour operating licence – affect of flightpaths on sleep, leading to health problems, poor night time air quality
- Where is the responsibility to consider 'no change' reflecting the current climate and not those of 4 years ago