



## Churt Parish Council

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October 10<sup>th</sup> 2023

Dear Sirs,

### **Response to Consultation on Farnborough Airport 2040**

Churt Parish Council has reviewed the Farnborough Airport 2040 proposals for an expansion of the airport and wishes to record its **objection** to the plans:

*If the requested increase in annual flight limits from 50,000 to 70,000 is permitted it would more than double the flights movements Farnborough Airport Limited (FAL) has today and it would considerably increase the noise pollution already suffered by Churt residents.*

*The emissions from these increased flights (which FAL facilitates) would cause significant harm to the residents and harm to the outstanding natural environment of the Surrey Hills AONB that surrounds Churt, would be a retrograde step in trying to achieve overall net-zero carbon emissions as well as being incompatible with the aspirations set out in Churt's Environmental Charter: Net Zero by 2050.*

Churt Parish Council also wishes to provide the following more specific feedback to the consultation:

1) FAL has published a chart showing that with increased flights total carbon emissions based on the Governments Jet Zero pathway would increase from 126,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022 to approximately 200,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2040<sup>1</sup>; a nearly 60% increase.

Despite this FAL claim that these changes will support 'our continued journey to achieving Net Zero by 2030'<sup>2</sup>. However, the airport does not take account of the cruise emissions from the aircraft that use the airport and make up 97% of FAL's emissions<sup>3</sup> in this Net Zero target.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://farnboroughairport2040.com/carbon-footprint/>

<sup>2</sup> Farnborough Airport 2040 flier

<sup>3</sup> <https://farnboroughairport2040.com/carbon-footprint/>

*Churt Parish Council believes that these emissions cannot be ignored in any Net Zero calculations.*

2) FAL claim that total emissions will be brought down through the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel substitutes but provide no details on the assumptions underlying these assertions<sup>4</sup>. However, a July 2023 FAL press release claimed that 'More recently it became the first in the world to trial Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) at the same price as its standard JET A1 fuel, while also committing to being Net Zero by 2030'<sup>5</sup>.

*Churt calls upon FAL to publish details of this trial, detailing the scope of any subsidies, the chemical makeup of the SAF, its origins in terms of renewable waste and residue raw materials and its production location.*

*Churt further requests that FAL publish historic figures and projections for the % of aviation fuel sold by the airport that is SAF. The projections should be accompanied by details of assumptions that can be independently verified.*

3) FAL claim that the increased number of flights will deliver 'continued economic growth to the communities we serve'<sup>6</sup>. FAL maintains it is a business aviation airport but there is a need to understand if flights contribute to 'economic growth' as opposed to just being 'leisure flights'.

*Churt Parish Council requests that FAL publish data detailing the number of flights by type of aircraft (very light jets, light jets, midsize jets, etc), by destination/origin.*

As part of this consultation FAL make a number of additional claims regarding the economic benefits of their proposals that are published on their website<sup>7</sup>. However, they provide no supporting data or source material that permits verification of these claims.

*Churt Parish Council calls on FAL to release this data and the assumptions underlying it in order to allow for verification of their claims.*

4) Farnborough claim that the increase is needed to meet market demand<sup>8</sup> yet have failed to publish any data regarding load factors on the flights already taking place or sources and statistics on demand

*Churt Parish Council calls on FAL to publish comprehensive data on actual load factors over the last five years and projected load factors for the future.*

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<sup>4</sup> <https://farnboroughairport2040.com/carbon-footprint/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.farnboroughairport.com/news/farnborough-airport-becomes-the-uks-first-business-aviation-airport-to-achieve-the-highest-level-of-carbon-accreditation>

<sup>6</sup> Farnborough Airport 2040 flier

<sup>7</sup> <https://farnboroughairport2040.com/benefits/>

<sup>8</sup> Farnborough Airport 2040 flier

5) FAL are proposing enhancements to the Airport's Community Environmental Fund. Since this awarded grants of £26,514 in 2022<sup>9</sup> any enhancement would be an improvement.

*Churt Parish Council believes the proposed geographic scope of this fund (which does not extend to Churt) is too narrow.*

6) Churt Parish Council notes the geographic scope of the proposed new Sustainability Fund<sup>10</sup> would include Churt.

*However, Churt Parish Council believes that the proposed contribution to this fund of £4 per business aviation flight for aircraft 50 tonnes and under is entirely inadequate.*

*Churt Parish Council believes that in addition to a meaningful per flight contribution there should be an explicit per passenger contribution to this Fund,*

*Churt Parish Council also believes that this Fund should be administered by a credible, independent third party environmental organisation and not, as proposed, administered by FAL itself.*

Yours faithfully

**Dawn Barrow**

**Clerk to Churt Parish Council**

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/community-parks-and-leisure/grants-for-community-organisations/farnborough-airport-community-environmental-fund-grants/farnborough-airport-community-environmental-fund-grant-awards-2022/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://farnboroughairport2040.com/community-funding-changes/>