



# Medway Progress

Update from **Bob Marshall-Andrews** – Member of Parliament for Medway

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## Campaign Takes Flight

**The campaign to stop an international airport being built at Cliffe has gone from strength to strength with several key reports concluding that it would be the wrong decision by the Government.**

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), British Airways, British Airports Authority (BAA) and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and Medway Council have all published key reports stating that Cliffe should not be an option. Even the Government's own Department of Transport's report questioned whether Cliffe would be a good idea due to the high risk of bird strikes.

Armed with the powerful facts and figures from these documents I have spoken to the new ministers responsible for the airport consultation. I have emphasised the direct relationship between the destruction of homes and communities and the loss of one of the most important environmental sites in Europe.

I have also stressed that it is essential that the Government to notify us of any decision at the earliest possible opportunity. It is unacceptable that the communities affected have had this shadow hanging over them for so long.



At Westminster with Jools Holland, my constituent & one of the many celebrities opposed to Cliffe Airport, and RSPB organiser Perry Haines.

Most important I continue to speak to and correspond with the many local people who are deeply worried by this proposal. To date I have answered over 2,500 letters on the issue. I have also attended public meetings and co-hosted a Westminster lobby.



Outside 10 Downing Street, with representatives of the local Parish Councils, during the handing in of residents letters and petitions against the Airport

## Welcome

*Here is my second special update on the ongoing campaign to stop a massive international airport at Cliffe.*

*With the Government's extended consultation period now over our fight still goes on. Although we have had extensive support from major players we must not be complacent. It is vital that we continue to put our case that it is environmental madness to build an airport on our green fields and to destroy the homes and lives of local people. I firmly believe that we will win this campaign.*

*Best wishes,*

Bob Marshall-Andrews QC MP

# All Standing Together

**It has been a privilege to work together with the large number of groups which have joined forces to fight the Cliffe proposal.**

The RSPB – a campaigning giant – has been magnificent in pulling together the threads of the campaign. The CPRE's report 'Flying To Destruction' highlighted the unacceptable noise levels. Airportwatch – the umbrella group for sustainable aviation – has also backed our campaign

along with local organisations including the Dickens' Country Protection Society and No Airport @ Cliffe.

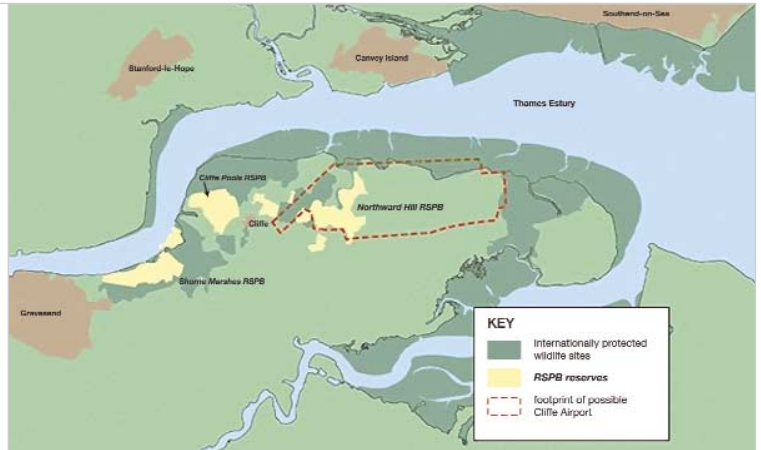
All of these groups – large and small alike, both professional and voluntary, – have created a powerful and multi-faceted campaign and they are to be congratulated along with many local individuals who have become hardened campaigners almost overnight!

## RSPB Rally

**The RSPB has organised a parliamentary lobby and rally which I will be addressing on October 29.**

The event is timed to coincide with ministers making crucial decisions in advance of publication of the Aviation White Paper.

I will meet with RSPB volunteers and campaigners and accompany them to the House of Commons after my speech.



An area the size of a large town is outlined for the proposed airport. Graphic courtesy of RSPB

## What you have to say

Here again are just a few heart-felt comments from my massive No Airport @ Cliffe postbag.

***“The personal loss of our parents house and the further loss of 1,100 more homes, not to mention the devaluation of others and the severe disruption to the quality of our lives and that of our precious children.”***

Mr and Mrs A, Hoo.

***“Cliffe Airport should not be an option. Please listen to what we are saying and uphold a quiet, peaceful and internationally renowned conservation site.”***

JC, Cliffe.

***“The close proximity of the runways to our school classrooms will cause disruption to the teaching environment due to the high levels of continuous noise as it is planned that the airplanes take off directly over the roof of our school.”***

School governors, Strood.

***“I think that you may judge that I have been unable to find anything positive for the construction of a large airport infrastructure at Cliffe or anywhere else.”***

JB, Lower Upnor.

### Can I Help?

Around every two weeks I hold a surgery locally to offer help and advice to constituents on a wide range of issues.

#### These include:

Benefit claims, including housing and incapacity issues, Pensions and/or associated payments, Child Support Agency, Planning issues, Medical/treatment problems, Crime/Law and Order, Environmental Damage, Obtaining visas.

Don't worry if your problem does not fit into one or more of the above categories. Just ask for a surgery form and give me brief details.

### Here's how to get in touch:

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