

Bristol Airport expansion plans not good enough

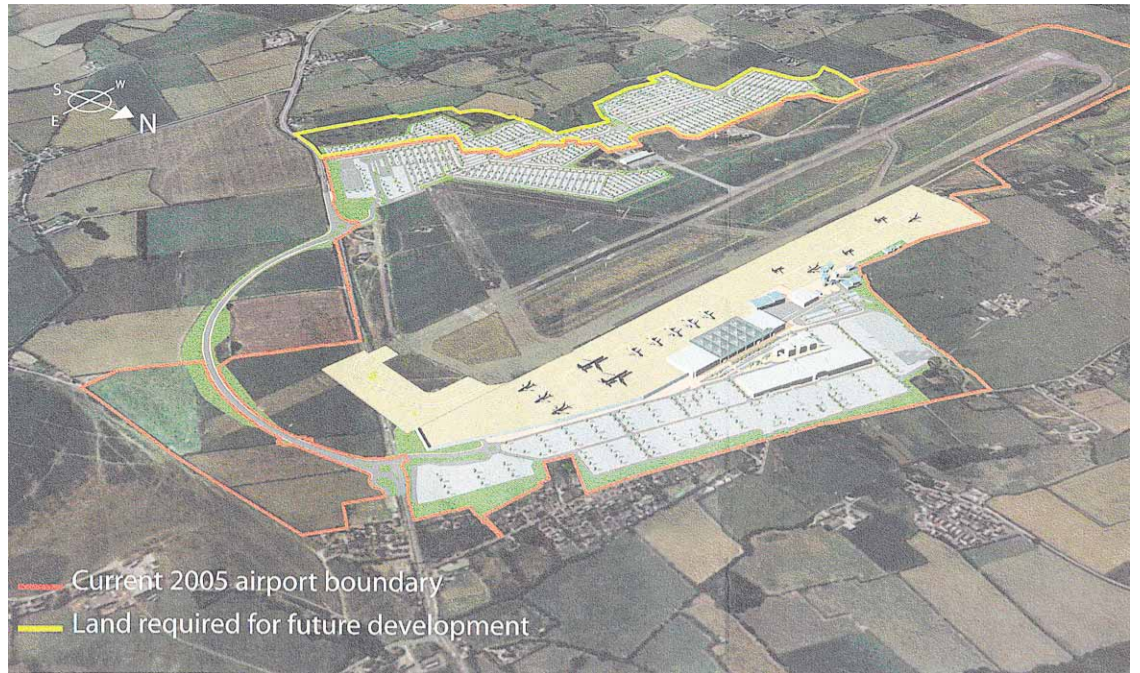
Weston-super-Mare MP John Penrose has asked Bristol Airport to think again about their plans to expand the airport

John Penrose said: "Take aircraft noise, which affects large numbers of people in the area. The airport says they're using bigger and newer planes, meaning there are fewer, quieter flights than they were originally expecting. But overall noise levels will still rise, just not quite as fast or as far as everyone feared.

"There are problems for travellers getting to and from the airport too. The main way to reach the airport is to drive through our local villages, so we will be faced with even more noise and

congestion on our roads. The airport may extend the 'Bristol Flyer' coach service to Weston to provide an alternative to the car, but this isn't guaranteed and in fact the airport want a huge increase in the size of their car parks. Quite a lot of the new parking will eat into the green belt.

"The airport's management need to do more to address aircraft noise, increased traffic in our villages and the effects on the green belt that surrounds the airport. It's also not been made clear what economic benefits the expansion will have either, especially as the plans were drawn up before the recession, when the local economy was doing far better."



Increased funding for eye health screening

Weston-super-Mare MP John Penrose has welcomed North Somerset Primary Care Trust's promise to increase funding for screening diabetes sufferers for retinopathy, the leading cause of blindness in working age adults, following his meeting with the health trust earlier this year

John Penrose said: "I'm delighted that the local health authority has agreed to allocate the resources needed to provide this screening to everyone who is at risk.

"At the moment some people with diabetes in Weston-super-Mare could be at risk of needlessly going blind, simply because they aren't being properly screened for this devastating complication of diabetes. That's why this increase in funds and staffing is so important."



■ John Penrose has been campaigning for more funding to screen diabetes sufferers for retinopathy



■ MP John Penrose is opening Parliament's doors to young people in Weston and the villages

Youth MPs visit Westminster

Current and former Youth MPs for North Somerset Tom Follett and Josh McTaggart recently shadowed MP John Penrose in Westminster and joined him in the House of Commons to watch Prime Minister's question time after discussing what matters to young people in and around Weston-super-Mare

John Penrose said: "I was delighted to welcome Tom and Josh to Parliament so they can scrutinise the work I'm doing on behalf of everyone in Weston and the villages when I'm in London.

"They raised some excellent points and it's great to see young people so concerned about and involved in Weston and its future. I hope they got a chance to glimpse the way Westminster works as well."

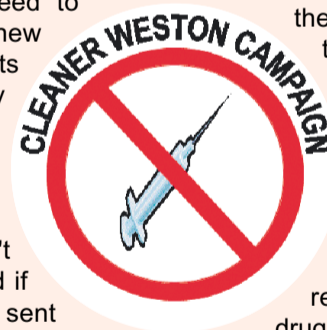
New regulator could be answer to Weston's drug problems

Weston MP John Penrose has met the new regulator responsible for inspecting and regulating drug rehabs and briefed its Chief Executive on Weston's problems with imported drug addicts

John said: "We need to make sure the new regulator inspects every rehab properly to make sure they're providing a high quality service. At the moment too many places aren't inspected at all and if addicts are sent somewhere that isn't offering high quality care, they've got much less chance of beating their addiction and rejoining society. And if they relapse back onto drugs there's a high chance they'll turn to crime to finance their habit, which isn't fair on towns like Weston either.

"I've told the new regulator they should also stop organisations referring addicts for treatment in towns like Weston without proper care or follow-up plans. At the moment too many addicts don't move on to the next stages in their rehabilitation when they finish their treatment, which means they're effectively dumped and abandoned in Weston without enough support to stop them from relapsing back onto drugs.

"We've got a once in a lifetime chance to apply the lessons learned in the Cleaner Weston Campaign across the rest of the country. I will be making a detailed submission over the next couple of months to drive the point home as well".



To find out more about
John Penrose's
work for Weston and the villages
- visit his website at

www.johnpenrose.co.uk

Every week **John Penrose MP** holds a surgery at different locations around the constituency.

For help, advice or to make an appointment, please contact Grace Roper in John's constituency office on

01934 613841

John Penrose MP - Working for you all year round