

TAKELEY PARISH COUNCIL CLLR JACKIE CHEETHAM SPEECH AT THE LOCAL PLAN PANEL MEETING - 10TH APRIL 2024

My name is Cllr Jackie Cheetham and I am speaking on behalf of Takeley Parish Council.

The Parish Council employed a transport consultant to comment on the sustainable transport proposals with new walking and cycling routes to link Little Canfield and Takeley with Stansted Airport railway station. Now that we have had the opportunity to read the comments made by Stansted Airport on this matter, we would like the opportunity to meet with the Planning Policy Team as soon as possible, to discuss how this information might affect the housing and employment proposals for Takeley and Little Canfield in the Local Plan.

It is now clear that the proposals in the Regulation 18 consultation would not be financially viable, nor would there be a safe alternative for a walking or cycling route to a railway station or for employment at the airport. In practical terms, it is only possible to access the airport's railway station by train, private car, taxi or bus. It is therefore no more sustainable to build homes in Takeley and Little Canfield than it would be to build anywhere else on a bus route to the airport and it would be less sustainable than building in towns and villages with their own railway station.

There are other proposals and policy changes in the Local Plan which raise concerns that the new Local Plan would alter the current relationship we have with Stansted Airport, removing the concept on 'an airport in the countryside' which has served Uttlesford so well for many years. Those policies have surrounded the airport with a wide countryside buffer and contained airport-related car parking and employment within the airport boundary. This strategy has been the envy of other major airports for many years and we fail to understand why Uttlesford would choose to open itself up to warehousing and other airport-related sprawl.

You will have read our Reg 18 objection to the removal of large areas from the Countryside Protection Zone. There are further policy changes in the plan, such as the removal of Policy T3, which currently prevents airport car parking in the parishes outside the airport boundary and changes to employment policy restrictions on airport-related employment land.

We hope that our comments will be considered by this panel and that a meeting can be arranged with Takeley and Little Canfield Parishes in the near future, to discuss how proposed changes would impact on the local community and to explore viable alternatives.