

Views from the Hill

NEWS SHEET OF THE TEWKESBURY LODGE ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION February 2019



Aircraft Noise – set to increase?

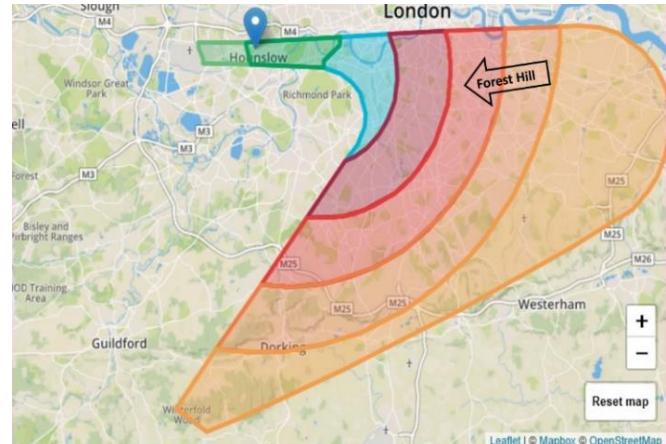
Over the last few years, many residents have noticed increasingly loud or intrusive noise from aircraft. As you will have read in our recent newsletter, we are already living in an aircraft noise black spot with an estimated 300 planes from City and Heathrow airports flying over our homes every day. And the number of flights into both airports is set to rise over the coming years. With no claim to being an aviation expert, an attempt has been made to summarise why this is happening.

Firstly, London City Airport. The airport launched concentrated flight paths in February 2016 after new air traffic control technology was brought in to cut carbon emissions - flights now follow streamlined routes to burn less fuel. This involved aircraft joining their final approach further out and being guided through narrower 'corridors' rather than being more dispersed over a wider area. The noise, as well as the planes, is now concentrated as planes try to cut fuel use, to save money - with the greatest difference being in South London.

In addition to this, a £480m airport development programme is already underway, due for completion in 2022. This will enable City to handle up to 6.5 million passengers per year, with up to 111,000 annual flights – a big increase on today's number.

Secondly, Heathrow is proposing to redesign all its flight paths to allow aircraft to land or take off on both of their two runways at the same time during busy periods. At present planes usually only land on both runways between 6am and 7am (the busiest hour of the day). These changes could result in an additional 25,000 flights a year whether or not the planned third runway is built - potentially as early as 2026.

Forest Hill and Honor Oak suffer more than most areas because aircraft are on approaches to both Heathrow and City airports at the same time on many days of the year. Although planes generally land and take off into the wind, Heathrow operates a 'westerly preference' which means nearly all arrivals pass over north-east and south-east London, except when the wind is strongly from the East. This includes the very early morning flights from before 5am until 11.30pm at night. Westerly operations also overfly the low altitude route to City Airport, so we are given no respite from one or the other of the two airports. Hence airport traffic is currently forming up over our Estate, with up to 15 planes per hour on some days.



Interactive postcode map from the Heathrow consultation showing areas ('design envelopes') within which flight paths could be positioned in the future.

Not only will increased environmental pollution at altitude have an adverse effect on climate change, the relatively low emissions at ground level from aircraft will inevitably increase as the two airports expand. This will clearly have implications for our health and well-being.

However, the most immediate impact of aircraft is noise. The lower the flights the louder the disturbance. City aircraft fly only 2000ft over SE London. Heathrow flights are higher, but the planes are much bigger and louder.

So the Association has two questions.

- Are you tired of early morning wakeups from before 5am and late night arrivals to 11.30pm (Heathrow)?
- Is your enjoyment of being outdoors spoilt with overhead aircraft loud enough to stop conversation and interrupt summer evening activities – even indoors too, when doors/windows are open?

In which case we urge you to take part in Heathrow's Airspace and Future Operations Consultation and give your feedback on the proposals to design new flight paths for the current two runways and potentially a third runway for an expanded Heathrow - as well as better management to minimise aircraft noise for residents.

Time is short –the closing date for the online questionnaire at <https://afo.heathrowconsultation.com/> is 4th March. Please don't be deterred by the detailed information given in the questionnaire. It doesn't take too long to complete – and some suggestions for possible responses are available on request! Just call 020 8699 8432.

Valerie Ward

Love your street tree?



I certainly love mine! In December 2018, a tree was planted on the pavement outside my house, as I had sponsored a tree under the Association's Street Tree Initiative. It was love at first sight.

For some time I had wondered why Canonbie Road had no street trees and envied those that had. It's a beautiful sight to see a street lined with blossom trees and luxuriant green canopies. There is no doubt that trees can really transform an area, so I snapped up the opportunity to have my own street tree. Of course, it's not my tree – I'm only looking after it for the environment. I have, however, made a personal investment in that tree. I have given it a name, watered it, and even talked to it! I also decided to put lights on the tree and decorate it with some baubles just before Christmas. Currently, I am eagerly awaiting its Spring flowering.

Do you have a tree you particularly admire, either outside in the street or in your front garden? If you have sponsored a street tree maybe you could decorate it for Easter or another event. Whatever the case, I would urge you to take a photo of your beautiful tree and send it by email, subject heading "I Love my Tree," to www.tewkesburylodge.org.uk

Who knows, a prize could await you!
Christine Noon

All residents are invited to our

Annual General Meeting

to be held at Horniman Primary School on
Tuesday 12th March 2019, starting at 6:30pm.

After a short AGM, we are pleased to welcome a guest speaker, Tim Walker, a Forest Hill resident and author of *South East London - No Respite from aircraft noise*. There will also be short updates on our progress with traffic calming, Street Trees, and other aspects linked to our *Cleaner, Greener, Safer Estate* initiative.

Additionally, a representative from Lewisham Council will be present to answer any questions you may have regarding the redevelopment of the vacant site in Canonbie Road.

Do come along and let us know what you would like the Association to focus on in 2019.

Wine and light refreshments will be served

AGM AGENDA

1. Welcome by the Chair
2. Minutes of last AGM
3. Report of last year's activities
4. Treasurer and membership reports
5. Election of Officers

Tina Hildrey, Secretary

February 2019