

Annual Review 2009



January 2009

- * SSE reiterates concerns over Public Inquiry start date, seeking deferral on three grounds
- * SSE has formal seat at second runway Programming Meeting; community turns out in force to call for Inquiry to be 'fair and thorough, not quick and dirty'; Inspector acknowledges fast-tracking unfeasible after pressure from SSE and other parties
- * Government confirms policy support for a third Heathrow runway after major consultation; branded unfair by campaigners, community and environmentalists
- * SSE makes its final (fourth) evidence submission to the Competition Commission endorsing the Commission's provisional conclusion that BAA should be forced to sell Stansted
- * Birchanger Burns Supper raises £1,600 for SSE second runway fighting fund

February 2009

- * SSE makes case at High Court against expansion permission on existing runway after raising £20,000 in specific donations from individuals, parishes and environmental groups
- * Parishes of Takeley and Stansted Mountfitchet donate £10,000 and £5,000 respectively to SSE's second runway fighting fund
- * NATS announces that its airspace change consultation is to be re-run after overwhelming community concern, scheduled for second half of 2009
- * SSE responds to the House of Commons Transport Committee's Future of Aviation Inquiry
- * BAA admits 2017 is earliest opening date for second runway if permission granted - contrasting with the Government's initial expectation of 2011-2012
- * Conservative Leader David Cameron confirms in writing his party's opposition to second Stansted runway

March 2009

- * High Court rejects SSE's appeal against the single runway expansion decision; SSE High Court costs exposure limited by Protective Costs Order
- * SSE applies to Court of Appeal to overturn High Court ruling on single runway
- * SSE writes to Secretary of State arguing that the second runway Public Inquiry should be postponed due to doubts about BAA's future ownership of Stansted and other uncertainties
- * Secretary of State for Communities postpones second runway Inquiry until Competition Commission report published and ownership issues are resolved
- * Competition Commission Market Inquiry into BAA monopoly published, requiring Stansted, Gatwick and Edinburgh or Glasgow Airports to be sold within two years
- * Broxton Quiz raises £1,250 for second runway fighting fund
- * SSE reveals incompatibilities between BAA's debt mountain and ability to legally see through Compulsory Purchase Order applications
- * Liberal Democrat Transport Spokesman Norman Baker visits SSE and his Leader, Nick Clegg, confirms in writing his party's opposition to a second Stansted runway

April 2009

- * SSE highlights the impact of new figures issued in the Budget which mean second runway will not be needed until well after 2030 - despite BAA's protestations to the contrary. Government sticks to position of 'urgent capacity shortage in the south east' - taken as a face-saving reference to pressure on Heathrow facilities rather than Stansted
- * SSE attends Conservative Party Spring Conference to reinforce opposition to second runway
- * 'Showtime at the Civic' raises £5,000 for second runway fighting fund * SSE's parent organisation, NWEHFA, holds AGM

May 2009

- * Dutton Hill Fun Day and Quiz raise £1,400 for second runway fighting fund
- * SSE publishes practical guide to reporting noise nuisance and sends it to 40,000 local

residents with parish council and resident group support

- * Conservative Shadow Transport Secretary Theresa Villiers visits Stansted to discuss economic issues with SSE and reaffirms second runway opposition
- * SSE responds to Government consultation on the Noise Regulation Amendments
- * SSE responds to Government consultation on the term "Carbon Neutral"

June 2009

- * SSE responds to Government consultation on Reforming the Framework for the Economic Regulation of UK Airports, strongly supporting the need for an independent regulator
- * SSE gives oral evidence to the House of Commons Transport Committee's Future of Aviation Inquiry
- * SSE asks Office of Fair Trading to investigate allegations of unfair trading practices at Stansted in relation to the treatment of local taxi firms and B&Bs/guest houses
- * Court of Appeal permission hearing held, providing clarity on the meaning of the High Court ruling on expansion of existing runway, though SSE's right to appeal is refused
- * SSE attends follow-up meeting with Shadow Transport Secretary in Westminster
- * SSE objective updated to incorporate county of Cambridgeshire, more fully reflecting the membership profile

July 2009

- * House of Commons Transport Committee asks SSE to provide further information on economics and forecasting issues for its Future of Aviation Inquiry
- * SSE's 'Robin' 2009 Christmas Card launched
- * Birchanger BBQ raises £1,700 for second runway fighting fund

August 2009

- * SSE issues guidance on responding to BAA's draft Noise Action Plan consultation and alerts Environment Secretary Hilary Benn to major flaw in BAA's presentation of statistics
- * SSE responds to Health Protection Agency consultation on Environmental Noise and Health
- * SSE volunteers support highly successful open day held at Gardens of Easton Lodge whose restoration plans have been blighted by second runway proposals
- * SSE bookstall at Countess of Warwick Show raises £1,100 for SSE and the Friends of the Five Parishes

September 2009

- * SSE responds to rail industry consultation on Increased Capacity on West Anglia/Stansted Express services
- * SSE makes formal representations opposing plans to expand Gatwick's north terminal and related facilities, calling for the application to be considered at a Public Inquiry
- * SSE attends Labour Party Conference to highlight economic flaws of Stansted expansion
- * SSE takes part in noise meeting in Hatfield Heath to address new, noisy, departure procedures and Air Asia X flights affecting local villages
- * SSE responds to BAA's draft Noise Action Plan consultation, condemning its weakness in failing to propose meaningful measures to bear down on noise nuisance
- * 8th annual runway ramble - the Heritage Hike - attracts 250 walkers and raises £3,000 in sponsorship and donations
- * Total donations from parish and town councils for the SSE financial year reach £28,000
- * 2010 Community Calendar launched

October 2009

- * SSE attends Conservative Party Conference, briefing senior Shadow Ministers and advisers
- * Shadow Aviation Minister Julian Brazier promises no new runways at Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted - if Conservatives are elected
- * SSE discusses Stansted expansion plans with Shadow Chancellor George Osborne on visit to Great Hallingbury
- * SSE attends the Competition Appeal Tribunal four day hearing of BAA's appeal against the ruling that three of its airports including Stansted must be sold
- * BAA sale of Gatwick concluded for just £1.5bn - half the cost of developing a second

runway at Stansted - during the Competition Appeal Tribunal

* Broxton Race Night raises £500 for second runway fighting fund

* SSE website reaches 1.7 million hits by 112,000 unique visitors in 12 months

* Stansted passengers now at 20.2 million passengers per annum (a fall of 16.5% since peak of 24m two years ago) and aircraft movements at 156,729 (a fall of 19.1% since 2007). Cargo flights have fallen to 1999 levels

December 2009

* SSE supporters join thousands in London for climate change march and rally - timed to coincide with the Copenhagen Climate Summit which sadly fails to reach meaningful accord

* Government's Climate Change Committee publishes report on UK aviation requiring major cuts in future air transport capacity because of carbon emissions from aircraft

* House of Commons Transport Committee Report concludes that the economic case for a second Stansted runway has not been made, questioning the need for it and vindicating SSE's economic arguments in the process

* Pre Budget Report makes no change from Air Passenger Duty to Per Plane Duty plans - long proposed by SSE - much to the discontent of the aviation industry

* 50 SSE volunteers and 30 shops raise £38,000 for SSE from sales of the Community Calendar, Christmas cards and notelets

* Competition Appeal Tribunal upholds BAA appeal against sale of Stansted in ongoing saga.