

Annual Review 2010



January 2010

- * Political briefings held on rail issues in relation to the Stansted Express line depriving regular commuters on the Cambridge line from access to new trains
- * Birchanger Burns Supper raises £1,800 for SSE second runway fighting fund
- * Figures for 2009 make a mockery of BAA claims that it urgently needs planning approval for a second Stansted runway, revealing passenger numbers are at their lowest annual total for six years with an eight year low for aircraft movements

February 2010

- * SSE gives support to Heathrow campaigners' High Court challenge and its own Court of Appeal case against expansion on the existing Stansted runway is cited on Day 1
- * SSE attends Conservative Spring Forum to brief MPs, MEPs and Shadow Ministers
- * Communities Secretary John Denham tells BAA to clarify its second runway application intentions and requires updated information if it intends to proceed at public inquiry
- * SSE initiates a new procedure with Uttlesford District Council and the airport for the reporting and investigation of aircraft fuel smells and deposits, leading to further investigation on refuelling emissions later in the year by a sub-group of the airport's consultative committee
- * A modified departure flight path within the Clacton 22 Noise Preferential Route is successfully trialled as part of moves to reduce noise in the Hallingburys, Hatfield Heath and Broad Oak

March 2010

- * BAA admits that even after ownership issues are resolved with the Competition Commission, it will still take 12-18 months to update the second runway application - meaning a potential outcome wouldn't be known following public inquiry until 2015 or beyond
- * SSE represented at Stansted Liberal Democrat dinner with Baroness Shirley Williams
- * Broxton Quiz raises £880 for SSE fighting fund
- * Historic High Court ruling on Heathrow says 2003 Air Transport White Paper is outdated and needs to be rewritten to reflect climate change targets - with major implications for Stansted
- * SSE attends Westminster seminar on Regulating Air Transport, with (Labour) Transport Minister Paul Clark and other key industry figures
- * SSE holds meeting with CAA and DfT to discuss environmental aspects of the CAA's Regulatory Framework for Aviation consultation and submits written response
- * Competition Commission releases BAA from interim undertakings requiring pursuit of second runway plans at Stansted, meaning there is no longer any legal pressure to move forward
- * BAA Stansted accounts filed at Companies House reveal that the airport operator has mortgaged its entire assets including many local homes
- * Pressure from SSE helps secure improved airport policy on handling noise complaints
- * Competition Commission applies to the Court of Appeal against BAA's continued ownership of Stansted following outcome of Competition Appeal Tribunal in late 2009

April 2010

- * SSE mobilises to prevent planning application for airport property to be relaxed to allow nonairport use which could potentially open floodgates for development at Stansted
- * SSE's parent organisation, NWEHPA, holds AGM
- * SSE supports call by parliamentary candidates for local rail users to be given as much consideration as airport passengers with a fairer deal on new train carriages order
- * Dutton Hill Quiz Night held in aid of SSE raises £1,000
- * Labour election manifesto pledges no second runway at Stansted in the new parliament; Conservative and Liberal Democrat manifestos follow suit in line with their confirmed position
- * Icelandic volcano erupts providing a week of peace for millions living near airports and making people around Stansted more aware than ever of the 'normal' noise levels

* Noise Action Week used to remind community to report noise nuisance from Stansted aircraft via the SSE website to ensure logging of disturbance - and help SSE press for action

May 2010

- * Duton Hill Fun Day raises £1,600 for second runway fighting fund and other local causes
- * Bookstall at Henham Fete raises £80 and provides opportunity to talk to hundreds
- * Innovative floral display for SSE steals the show at the Elsenham Flower Festival
- * General Election result sees Coalition Government formed between Conservatives and Liberal Democrats - despite Ed Balls's offer to scrap Heathrow expansion in order to form a coalition with the Liberal Democrats
- * First announcement by the Coalition Government is to rescind policy support for new runways at Stansted, Heathrow and Gatwick, enshrined in the Coalition Agreement
- * (24 May) BAA surrenders and withdraws its planning application and compulsory purchase orders for the second runway planning application
- * (25 May) SSE holds champagne celebration at the Three Horseshoes, Molehill Green, with supporters from far and wide
- * (26 May) SSE recommences work on securing a long term moratorium on additional runways at Stansted to ensure the best policy framework for the future. SSE accepts invitation from the CAA to participate in stakeholder workshops to consider changes to the economic regulation of airports (ahead of new legislation due in 2011)

June 2010

- * SSE calls on BAA to sell back homes and property acquired in connection with the second runway plans and to give a long term pledge that no new runway plans will be brought forward. Unsurprisingly, BAA refuses, blaming the previous government for all that happened
- * SSE hold Westminster and Whitehall briefings to reflect change of administration
- * SSE represented at Bishop's Stortford carnival and Hatfield Heath flower festival
- * Competition Commission goes to the Court of Appeal at the High Court to appeal decision by the Competition Appeals Tribunal to quash forced sale of Stansted Airport by BAA

July 2010

- * SSE helps to organise noise meeting in Hatfield Heath to address aircraft noise issues arising from departure procedures and Air Asia X flights affecting local villages
- * BAA denies completion date of 2019/20 for Echo Taxiway which will trigger compensation payments worth millions, stated in a letter of early June, claiming 2014/15 might be possible
- * Sir Alan Haselhurst MP hosts 'Never Again' reception for SSE at the House of Commons to reflect on the success of the campaign and highlight what remains to be done to secure a long term moratorium on a new runway at Stansted. Attended by MPs from across the region and Business Minister Mark Prisk MP

August 2010

- * Pies, Puds and Plonk Sunday lunch in a Broxted country garden raises £2,600 for SSE
- * New SSE Christmas card launched featuring Hatfield Forest
- * Parish Councils start writing to the Transport Minister calling for action on housing blight
- * Pedal power brought to the fore at Flich Way Cycle Ride to highlight the need for the community to rebuild after the threat of major expansion at Stansted
- * SSE bookstall at Countess of Warwick Show raises £800 for SSE and for the Friends of the Five Parishes - despite appalling weather

September 2010

- * Birchanger villagers raise £700 for SSE's fighting fund with a 'Race Night at the Proms'
- * SSE attends Liberal Democrat and Labour Party Conferences to highlight need for long term moratorium on Stansted expansion and the release of homes back to the community
- * 9th annual Runway Ramble - the Hallingbury Hike - attracts community leaders and walkers to highlight the blight across the region from overflying and BAA's refusal to sell back homes
- * SSE represented at the Hatfield Forest Woodfest and Dunmow carnival
- * Total donations from parish and town councils for the SSE financial year reach £20,000
- * 2010 Community Calendar launched

* Ed Miliband elected as new Labour leader - a significant step forwards towards changing his party's policy on airport expansion following his earlier statements of opposition to new runways in the south east

October 2010

- * SSE attends Conservative Party Conference
- * Court of Appeal rules in the Competition Commission's favour: BAA must sell Stansted and either Glasgow or Edinburgh Airports. BAA pledges to appeal to the Supreme Court - despite SSE calls for it to end the blight by accepting the decision
- * NATS announces that its airspace change consultation, first initiated in 2008, won't be re-run except as part of a nationwide review, and not for 2-3 years at the earliest. Immediate threat to the region lifted and result linked to fierce campaigning by SSE and others
- * SSE responds to Defra consultation on the Future Shape of the Countryside, stressing the need to put a formal value on priceless rural assets
- * SSE discusses Stansted expansion plans with Justice Minister Ken Clarke on visit to Felsted
- * SSE website reaches 1 million hits by 42,000 unique visitors since start of 2010
- * Stansted passengers now at 18.8m passengers per annum - down from 2007 peak of 24.1m - while aircraft movements are reduced to 146,795 (compared with 193,700 in October 2007)
- * New trains ordered by National Express to be allocated to both the Stansted Express and Cambridge commuter line, alleviating some (but not all) concerns over second class treatment of local commuters at the expense of airport passengers
- * Community pressure results in all Air Asia X flights being moved out of the eight hour night period for the winter schedule that started end-October 2010, with the occasional departure now just on the 11pm night period start time

November 2010

- * SSE holds major second hand book sale in aid of the fighting fund, raising £890
- * Calendar and Christmas card sales continue apace, enabling face-to-face contact with thousands of people across the community and contributing to SSE funds
- * Transport Minister Theresa Villiers briefed by SSE delegation and Sir Alan Haselhurst MP in Westminster, agreeing to look into moratorium issue and BAA stranglehold on the ownership of property in the community
- * Continued pressure leads to airport drafting helicopter complaints procedure which will be incorporated into the policy on handling noise complaints
- * Proposal finally in preparation by airport for raising height limits for departing aircraft from 4,000ft to 6,000ft, initially on the Clacton 22 route, that will avoid holding down aircraft in the initial climb phase and improve the noise climate
- * SSE presses for continuous descent approaches for aircraft landing from the south west and especially over Ware
- * BAA Noise Action Plan still unpublished, more than a year after the consultation closed

December 2010

- * Stansted Airport's Managing Director leaves suddenly "by mutual agreement"
- * SSE provides guidance to parish and town councils on responding to the CAA's Future Airspace Strategy consultation
- * Aviation Minister Theresa Villiers delivers keynote address at 'A New Direction for Aviation Policy' conference, attended by SSE who note the Minister is irked by industry lobbying.