

Objection to Leeds Bradford Airport Planning Application 26/04635/FU

Feedback from Graham Sugden, Chairperson of the West Park Residents Association.

We have over 350 members who live in the West Park area, many of whom reside directly under the flight path of the airport. At our WPRA Committee meeting on Monday 28 September we agreed unanimously to oppose this planning application.

We oppose the application on the grounds that, if it is successful, it will significantly increase the number of night flights, have an impact on the sleep and health of residents as well as having a negative impact on the environment.

Our main concerns are

1. The extension of daytime flight time period increasing from the current 0700-2300 to 0630-2330.
 - a. During the extended period there would be no restriction on the number of flights. Additionally, some flights previously labelled as night flights would become day flights and hence avoid contributing to the annual quota (see below).
 - b. LBA are requesting that flights scheduled to arrive before 2330 but fail to do so should not count as a night flight. Present requirements would include these as night flights. This raises the incentive to airline operators to publish unrealistic schedules
2. Whilst it is agreeable to have 'quieter' and cleaner planes flying over West Park the implications of switching from a fixed number of allowable night flights to a noise quota count (QC) system is of significant concern. It will inevitably lead to a large increase in the number of night flights as more planes with a lower QC are introduced.
 - a. All planes are noisy and there is no such thing as a quiet take-off or landing.
 - b. The current total number of permitted night flights is 4941 per annum of which 3861 can operate during the summer period. Our understanding is that under the proposed annual noise quota of 1400 it would allow a maximum of 11 600 flights using QC 0.125 aircraft or 5 800 using QC 0.25.
 - c. Quieter and cleaner planes are welcome. However, the public should benefit not just the airport and airlines. For this reason, we believe that the fixed limit on the number of permitted night flights should remain in conjunction with noise quotas that incentivise

airlines to use quieter aircraft. These noise quotas should be reviewed as technological advances are made so that residents can benefit from such improvements.

3. The resulting negative impact on the health of those of us living in West Park. In particular,
 - a. Sleep deprivation due to more frequent night flights. More slightly less noisy planes will have more impact on sleep than fewer noisy flights
 - b. The implications for the health of those of us living under the flight path created by increased air pollution.
4. We consider it essential that whatever is agreed must be independently monitored on a regular and ongoing basis and reported to the Council to ensure that LBA operates within the permitted limit.

5th October 2026