

# RESIDENTS' PETITION



## **What is trying to achieve?**

The biggest ever residents' petition in the history of Uttlesford District Council (UDC) has been submitted to the Council by SSE. **It calls for the 2018 Stansted Airport planning application to be referred back to the UDC Planning Committee for further consideration.**

The residents' petition, which was launched on 11 June, attracted over 1,000 signatures in its first five days. This is 20 times more than the number required by UDC for a petition to be validated and more than four times as many as any previous UDC petition.

The petition is still gathering signatures and can be signed at <http://chnng.it/QGYQV46xvr> provided you are eligible to vote in Uttlesford and have not already signed. You can also access the petition via the SSE website at [www.stopstanstedexpansion.com](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com). Please ignore the donations option which is a standard feature on the [change.org](http://change.org) website recommended by UDC. This is not an SSE fundraising exercise. It's only your signature that is needed.

## **Background**

The 2018 airport planning application, which sought approval for an increase in Stansted's annual passenger numbers to 43 million (almost as much as today's Gatwick), was conditionally approved by UDC Planning Committee in November 2018. This approval was by the narrowest of margins, namely, the Chairman's (additional) casting vote, after the Planning Committee was split down the middle with five in favour and five against.

However, final approval has not yet been granted because there are conflicting views as to whether the conditions laid down by the Planning Committee have been met. UDC officers insist that all the conditions have been satisfied and they now wish to grant final approval. However, SSE has identified a number of issues which are still outstanding. There are divided views amongst councillors as to whether the conditions have been met.

In addition, before granting final approval, the Planning Committee has a duty to consider any new material factors and/or changes in circumstances that have arisen in the seven months since last November when the application was conditionally approved. SSE has identified a number of new material factors which it believes must now be considered.

The petition makes no judgment as to whether the application should be approved or refused. It is purely a request for the correct procedure to be followed by referring the matter back to the UDC Planning Committee.

SSE believes that there is an overwhelming case for the Planning Committee to have another look at this, as they are legally entitled to do. Moreover, it is imperative that UDC officers do not issue final approval to Stansted before allowing the Planning Committee to take stock of the situation.

## **Council Meeting on 28 June**

The residents' petition is due to be presented by SSE to an Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council at 4.00pm on Friday 28 June at the Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden. The sole purpose of this meeting is to discuss next steps with regard to the Stansted Airport planning application. The meeting is open to the public so please come along if you can.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.