

Airport Report for Chew Magna Parish Council Meeting

On 7 April 2026

Bristol Airport planning application to expand from 12mppa to 15mppa

On 27 March 26, Town and Parish Clerks in NSC received a notification that BAL had submitted a planning application for expansion of the airport to 15 mppa. The time for us to submit our objections is 6 weeks from the date that it appears on the portal at [Bristol Airport proposals | North Somerset Council](#) .

Report on PCAA meeting held on 26 March 2026

Time 7.30pm by Zoom

- MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A long discussion took place about the new Bristol Airport planning application which will be publicly announced to the press on 27 th March. The following points were made:

North Somerset Council has allowed a response period of six weeks following the publication of the planning application. Whilst they will allow responses to be submitted after this period, it was agreed that the PCAA will endeavour to submit its response within this timeframe as we do not want to risk being too late for our response to be considered.

It was unanimously agreed that the PCAA should use the services of the agreed expert consultants to advise on its response to the application.

Bristol Airport has the worst tourist deficit in the country, with 84% leaving and only 16% flying in.

THE PCAA needs to put pressure on WECA and all North Somerset and BANES councillors now.

Bristol City Council and BANES have publicly stated that they will be objecting to the planning application.

It is very important that all Town and Parish Councils submit their response to the planning application, giving detailed reasons of how the airport expansion should affect their communities.

- REPORTS ON NET ZERO/CLIMATE CHANGE/AIRPORT EMISSIONS: Hilary Burn

The Government has responded to the Environmental Audit Committee Report seventh session 2024 - 2026 titled "Airport expansion and climate and nature targets. This report was published autumn 2026 and made seven recommendations. The Government stated that these seven recommendations would be addressed in the new Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS). The ANPS is due to be published in June 2026.

The seventh carbon budget 2038 -2042 is to be set and legally adopted in June 2026. Aviation emissions are to be included in the sixth carbon budget 2033 - 2037. Currently, the aviation sector is only just on target to meet the commitment of the sixth carbon budget. The sector will need to meet all targets set to achieve the carbon reduction required, such as, increase in sustainable aviation fuel, fleet modernisation, flight path efficiencies, and operational efficiencies.

- FELTON COMMON LIGHTING CONSULTATION- update

Winford Parish Council will be taking expert legal advice regarding the airport's proposed compulsory purchase order for Felton Common. A CPO application could take a number of years, and any planned airport extension of the runway would not be able to take place until this has been finalised.

- PASSENGER FIGURES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS: update Hilary Burn

There are currently ten and three quarter million passenger movements, which is due to increase to eleven million by the end of 2026. The airport has promised that construction would begin on a third multi-story car park when eleven million is reached but the planning application for this car park has not been submitted yet.

There were 78,169 aircraft movements in 2025.

- DISPENSATIONS OF NIGHT FLIGHTS: Joachim Steinbeck and Hilary Burn.

In 2024 there were 832 dispensations. This increased to 863 in 2025. At the Airport Consultative Committee meetings commencing in 2025 the Airport Management Team suggested ways to reduce flights coming in late. One of the proposed ways was to reduce the flights arriving between 23.15-23.30 hrs. Although this was tried it has not made any difference in late arrivals and flight arrivals increased in 2025.