

Airport Report for Chew Magna Parish Council Meeting

On 7 July 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 following information was received from North Somerset Council

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

Reference: 26/P/0686/OU2

Location: Bristol Airport, North Side Road, Felton, Wrington

Applicant: Bristol Airport Limited

Description: Hybrid planning application (full and outline elements) with Environmental Statement for the expansion of Bristol Airport to enable a throughput of 15 million passengers per annum, operating within a rolling 12 month cap of 99,931 air transport movements and 4,974 night flights between the hours of 23:30 and 06:00.

Full application elements comprising: extension of western apron for additional aircraft stands; reconfiguration of central and eastern aprons; construction of a passenger surface level car park for approximately 2,000 vehicles; eastern extension of existing runway by approximately 170m, with repositioned and additional aircraft approach lighting within Felton Common; taxiway and fillet widening to Taxiway GOLF with a realignment at the western runway end; construction of two new taxiways; extension of surface level car rental parking area; expansion of existing Silver Zone car park to provide an additional circa 1,960 block parked vehicle spaces; construction of new surface level staff car park for approximately 1,720 vehicles; highway improvements to the A38, including upgrades to northern access roundabout, construction of a new southern roundabout and widening of the road to accommodate an additional bus lane with dedicated access onto the A38.

Outline application elements comprising of 3no. extensions to terminal building on west, north and east sides; construction of new piers to the west and east of the terminal including an underground walkway; construction of ancillary support buildings; relocated and expanded aviation fuel farm; a pedestrian bridge link; erection of a new baggage building; erection of a maintenance repair and overhaul hangar and ground run up pen; construction of parking decks within Silver Zone car park and car rental facility; minor works within Silver Zone car park; construction of a bus maintenance and washing facility; site wide landscaping, drainage, lighting and other associated infrastructure.

An application has been received for the above proposal which includes an Environmental Statement and which you are invited to comment upon. You can view a copy of the application and the environmental statement on our website at: <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/> using the above reference number.

The proposed development is accompanied by an Environmental Statement, is a major application and does not accord with the provisions of the current adopted development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

Comments are still being accepted

.Formal comments by email to: BAconsultees@n-somerset.gov.uk

The **FINAL PCAA Comments on Planning Application 26/P/0686/OU2** have been sent to NSC and are attached to this report.

The **Chew Magna Parish Council comments on Planning Application 26/P/0686/OU2** have been sent to NSC and are attached to this report.

26/P/1009/AOC - Request to discharge condition 6 (Annual bat monitoring survey) on application 23/P/1637/FUL

The PCAA had no objection to this planning application to discharge condition 6 on application 23/P/1637/FUL. That condition was in relation to the temporary car park and lighting installation which has subsequently been made permanent, and the requirement for bat surveys will now be managed under the approved 12mppa Integrated Landscape and Biodiversity Mitigation and Management Plan.'

Attitudes towards aircraft noise in the UK

On 11 June 2026 the DfT and Civil Aviation Authority released new evidence on attitudes towards aircraft noise in the UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/aviation-night-noise-effects-anne-study>

<https://www.caa.co.uk/environmental-sustainability/aviation-noise-attitudes-survey/>

<https://www.caa.co.uk/media/znmfgdoa/cap-3131-aviation-noise-attitudes-survey-2023-2024.pdf>

The study and survey are highly important to the application, in summary, the ANAS (2026) study updates the SoNA (2014) study which is used in the Environmental Assessment to underpin the data calculations for LOAEL and SOAEL, and to calculate the percentage of people likely to be highly annoyed and sleep deprived as shown in tables 7.45 and 7.46 of the Airport ES. The results of ANAS (2026) show that people are more highly annoyed at lower levels of aircraft noise than previously assumed. The scale of the change since 2014 is notable and if these new thresholds were applied to the Bristol assessment, would produce significantly larger impacts.

"The key finding from ANAS is that the noise level corresponding to 10% of the population being highly annoyed has fallen from 54 dB LAeq,16h (identified by SoNA) to 43 dB LAeq,16h. The percentage of people highly annoyed was found to be higher at all levels of noise exposure in the ANAS study, including in areas surveyed for both reports.

The ANNE study tells a similar story, with nighttime aircraft noise causing 10% of people to be highly annoyed at 43dB LAeq,8h and highly sleep disturbed at 44 dB LAeq,8h. At 46 dB LAeq,8h, the percentage of people highly annoyed doubled, with 20% highly annoyed." <https://www.aef.org.uk/2026/06/11/many-more-people-bothered-by-aircraft-noise-than-previously-thought/>

The results of ANAS show a reasonable correlation with the World Health Organisation's Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region (2019). Communities have always argued that noise should operate under WHO guidelines.

Public Meeting against Airport Expansion organised by BAAN on 9 June

A public meeting was held on Tuesday 9th June, 7.30-9pm, at Chew Valley School. Titled 'Bristol Airport Expansion - The pros and cons' the event enables discussion of Bristol Airport's expansion plans, and how people may meaningfully respond to the planning application, which must be completed by 28th June. Louise Leeder attended. Attendees were encouraged to put in personal objections to Bristol Airport expansion to 15mppa.

Briefing Meeting on Bristol Airport Planning Application 26/P/0686/OU2 for Town and Parish Councils was held on 3 July online at 10 am and all Parish Councillors have received an invitation. Louise Leeder attended. A series of slides were provided by Jason Beale from NSC and are attached. Questions and discussions were had on infrastructure and transportation of fuel on the Downside Road; a plan for traffic lights on A38 which is not in the application; whether modelling

would be used to assess whether a further 29% of airport traffic would be possible for expansion to 15mppa to occur without gridlock – this would not be happening; that Cardiff Airport was in a better position as it could take wide bodied jets for long haul; were NSC liaising with BANES – they said yes; had the expansion been looked in relation to flooding – no consideration; 1000 airport jobs are promised but this has been in previous applications and never materialised and were these related only to construction; have BA made a large payment for assessing the application – yes and NSC have employed 2 companies of consultants for advice.

Local concerns focused on Felton Common (biodiversity loss, public access, approach lights lowering by about 12 m, intimidation from low-flying aircraft), potential A38 safety impacts from altered flight trajectories, unintended lighting effects from development at Cook's Farm, and whether council finances could bias decision-making. Officers said they will examine these issues, pursue further information on lighting strategy, discuss highway and safety matters with the airport and relevant bodies (including CAA), and that planning recommendations will be based on planning merits while advising members on legal risks. The compulsory purchase/deregistration process for common land was clarified as a separate legal route handled by the Secretary of State; climate-related questions were raised but no response to climate specifics appears in the record.

PCAA website 'Member Only Area'

A new password protected 'Member Only Area' has been created on the PCAA website, which can be accessed at www.pcaa.org.uk. This area has been added to provide a section on the website where member-only messages and documents can be posted.

Date of next PCAA meeting 9 July 2026 at Felton Hall

Attachments

FINAL PCAA Comments on Planning Application 26/P/0686/OU2

Chew Magna Parish Council comments on Planning Application 26/P/0686/OU2