

Airport Report for Chew Magna Parish Council Meeting

On 4 August 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.

<https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/> using the above reference number.

A Town and Parish Councils presentation 3.7.26 relating to the planning application has been received and a copy is attached.

Report on PCAA AGM held on 9 July 2026

Ben Moss was elected as Chair. Louise Leeder agreed to chair the meetings before handing over. Louise Leeder was elected as Vice Chair.

TOPIC LEADS

Net Zero/Climate Change/Airport Emissions	Hilary Burn
Planning	Sean Stephenson-McGall
Parking and Green Belt	Roger Daniels
Air Space modernisation	Vacant
Noise	Christine Macfie
Website	Sean Stephenson-McGall
Biodiversity	Amanda Barrett and Shoni Millward Usher

APPOINTMENT OF PCAA REPRESENTATIVES FOR:

Airport Consultative Committee	Ben Moss
Airspace and Noise Community forum	Christine Macfie

MEMBERSHIP and SUBSCRIPTIONS

Puxton Parish Council have joined the PCAA. We now have 26 member parish councils and 2 town councils. 17 of these councils are in North Somerset. 11 are in BANES.

The subscription fees for 2027-28 will increase from £95 to £100 (there has been no increase since 2023). A 50% discount will be offered to member councils with a precept of less than £20,000.

Report on PCAA Ordinary Meeting held on 9 July 2026

Most items have been reported in previous reports so items for information are in relation to the following:

Emissions: Progress in reducing emissions, Committee on Climate Change, 24 June:

“Progress in other sectors, including agriculture, land use, and aviation, has also been too slow. In addition, the Government’s plan to achieve the Sixth Carbon Budget relies on a rapid ramp-up in engineered removals after 2030 but lacks detail on how this will be achieved.

The rate of global warming is at a record high, and the UK is already experiencing the impacts. Heatwaves have become hotter, longer, and more frequent. In 2026, the highest May temperature on record in the UK was recorded in Greater London. Early 2026 was exceptionally wet in parts of the UK, with long unbroken spells of rain leading to widespread flooding. The UK can end its contribution to ongoing global climate change by reaching Net Zero emissions and have a resilient transition that simultaneously considers actions to adapt to rising temperatures.”

Noise:

Aviation Night Noise Effects (Anne Study) from DfT, June 10

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

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has published

[Aviation Noise Attitudes Study \(ANAS\) on daytime noise annoyance.](#)

What do ANAS and ANNE tell us about how communities are affected by aircraft noise?

“The key finding from ANAS is that the noise level corresponding to 10% of the population being highly annoyed has fallen from 54 dB LA_{eq,16h} (identified by SoNA) to 43 dB LA_{eq,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 LA_{eq,8h} and highly sleep disturbed at 44 dB LA_{eq,8h}. At 46 dB LA_{eq,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/>

Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS), 18 June :

The Airports National Policy Statement was published in 2018. The document is now called Heathrow Expansion National Policy Statement (HENPS). Within these documents are forecasts on emissions which will affect the carbon budgets and air quality particulates. BAAN are looking at the greenhouse gas impacts. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-heathrow-expansion-national-policy-statement-appraisal-report>.

Gatwick Ruling from High Court June 2026

The High Court dismissed the judicial review which was seeking to overturn the decision granted by the Secretary of State for Transport for consent of the dual runway at Gatwick. The campaign may appeal.

OFF AIRPORT PARKING: Roger Daniels.

Roger Daniels had provided a comprehensive update which had been circulated prior to the meeting. It can be viewed [on this link](#).

PASSENGER FIGURES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS: Hilary Burn

Passenger Numbers: In 2025, the number of passengers who travelled through the Airport was 10,751,233. This represents a 2.6% increase compared to 2024, and the busiest ever year for the Airport. The passenger cap is 12 mppa.

Air Transport Movements: The number of Air Transport Movements (ATMs) reduced in 2025 by 0.5% when compared to 2024. ATMs include all flights rather than aircraft movements which mainly reflects scheduled and charter flights only. Positioning flights refer to flights which have the sole purpose of positioning the aircraft to conduct a flight from a different airport numbering 780. Total number of flights 78,169. The ATM limit is 85,990 per calendar year

DISPENSATIONS OF NIGHT FLIGHTS: Hilary Burn.

Dispensations: Bristol Airport reviews these requests and reports and agrees any dispensations with the local planning authority in accordance with a process agreed with North Somerset Council. Any requests which did not align to the conditional criteria would be refused and would count as night flights within the night movement limit. There were 740 movements logged as dispensations within summer 2025 based on the agreed criteria within the planning conditions. In total delay flights in the year were 863. The night movement limit is set at 4,000 atm's but in 2025 there were 4,863.

Ref: <https://www.bristolairport.co.uk/media/ojbpf21b/annual-monitoring-report-2025-published-version.pdf>

<https://www.bristolairport.co.uk/media/lkvqpbpg2/2025-q4-12-mppa-pax-and-atm-compliance-report.pdf>

Passenger predicted in 2026 11.1 mppa and atm's 82,836.

Q1 2026, Dispensations were 62.

Letter to Natural England from the PCAA

The PCAA have written to Natural England regarding Bristol Airport Application 26/P/0686/OU2 - growth to 15 mppa. Natural England had responded to the application on 9 July 2026 but their response did not comment on the Mendip Hills, an Area of Outstanding Beauty and a designated National Landscape. Both the Mendip Hills National Landscape had responded to the application *that adverse effects on the special qualities and natural beauty of the Mendip Hills National Landscape would be an unavoidable consequence of the proposed expansion. Collectively, these effects would erode the quality of the National Landscape and the experience it provides for residents, businesses and visitors.*" The PCAA, highlighted that *"the proposal would result in a material intensification of airport-related urbanising effects within the wider rural landscape surrounding Bristol Airport, including within the setting of the Mendip Hills National Landscape. It therefore conflicts with the environmental objectives of sustainable development in the NPPF and is inconsistent with the statutory duty under section 245 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 to seek to further the purposes of National Landscapes."* Our response is attached for information.

The PCAA requested Natural England to make detailed comments within an objection to the application.