

Disturbed Sleep – Have your Say

The editor's desk at the Shiplake News has received a number of complaints from residents in the area about their sleep being disturbed by the noise of aircraft approaching Heathrow early in the morning. Our MP John Howell, in a Parliamentary Adjournment Debate on Monday 19th October, described the behaviour of some pilots as akin to doing a 'hand brake turn' over Henley.

It doesn't have to be like this. There are remedies to this problem and we need to ask two questions of those responsible for managing air traffic into Heathrow.

Firstly, it is well understood that aircraft have to land into the wind, so if the wind is in an easterly direction aircraft must approach from the west but why are aircraft turning for their final approach so far west of the airport?

Secondly, why if aircraft have to fly over Henley are they at such variable heights? An aircraft expertly managed on a continuous descent into Heathrow should be at a height and reduced engine power that they would be hardly noticeable.

Whatever decision the government make for airport expansion in the south east, this problem will not go away unless those affected take some action. Contact the individuals who are in a position to do something about it. The names and addresses of the relevant people are detailed below:

Mr John Holland-Kaye, Chief Executive – Heathrow Airport Ltd. The Compass Centre, Nelson, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW6 2GW

Mr Andrew Haines, Chief Executive – CAA, CAA House, 45-49 Kingsway, London WC2B 6TE

Mr Martin Rolfe, Chief Executive – NATS, 4000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hants

Mr John Howell MP, PO Box 84, Watlington, Oxfordshire, OX49 5XD*

* John Howell MP can be contacted via email – howelljm@parliament.uk (State your name, full address and postcode and a contact number).