



LUTON AIRPORT PLANS TO EXPAND

Luton Airport, already the UK's fifth largest airport, wishes to expand yet further.

London Luton Airport Limited, the company that owns the airport, wants to increase the number of passengers using the airport each year from around 11.5 million to 18 million, which would be a rise of nearly 60%.

As part of the planning application process, the owners are obliged to undertake a consultation and local residents, as well as councils and interest groups, will be entitled to voice their opinions. But Luton Borough Council, the planning authority, is also the shareholder of London Luton Airport Limited. And the period of consultation is very short: it will last for just four weeks beginning on Monday, 6 February.

Consultation events will take place in a number of locations, but not in Wheathampstead even though the village would inevitably be affected by such a dramatic increase in passenger numbers. The nearest event will be at Southdown Room, Harpenden Public Halls, Southdown Road, Harpenden between 10am and 5pm on Saturday, 25 February. More details about the consultation process can be found on a website that the airport owners have set up for this purpose: www.futureluton.co.uk/optimisation.html

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Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Garden

In our last newsletter we set out our plans for the new riverside garden which is to be called the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Garden.

Many thanks to all members who have kindly volunteered to help with the work. The first working party took place on 29 January and we will let you know details of further working parties as they are arranged.



The first working party on 29 January

Things are progressing well. We are in the process of negotiating the terms of a Licence to use the land. With good will on all sides we are confident that these negotiations will come to a successful and speedy conclusion.

We are also working closely with the Environment Agency. As the garden will be on the flood plain we must be sure that none of our work, or the materials which we are going to use, has any adverse effect on safety or property.

As we said in the last newsletter, the garden has to be ready for the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee in early June, so time is tight. We are, therefore, most grateful to the landowners David Payne (Hammersmatch Properties) and Rae Borrás (T&B Construction Ltd.) for agreeing that we can start work before the terms of the Licence are fully agreed.

We have erected a temporary information sign on the fence by the village sign so that residents are kept informed about exactly what is happening and, of course, more volunteers would always be most welcome!

Time to renew

It's the beginning of a New Year and time to remind you to renew your subscription to WDPS.

Over the past year WDPS has been involved in a number of projects that have helped to give the village a bit of a 'face-lift': river clearing, bulb planting and sign cleaning to name a few.

Now we have a number of exciting projects to look forward to: a red telephone box, a smart new notice-board and a 'Riverside Garden' which will give villagers different views of the river and The Bull. Your subscriptions have helped to make all this possible. They allow us to continue to enhance the village and conserve the things we believe you think are important.

This is a good time of the year to say how much we appreciate and value your support and help. Thank you.

Luton Airport Expansion—cont'd from p.1

The news comes ahead of the review that National Air Traffic Services (NATS) will be undertaking of air traffic routes over southern England. As reported in the November 2010 newsletter, NATS delayed its plans to change the air traffic routes over Hertfordshire, which threatened to increase aircraft noise over Wheathampstead, but only because of the reduction that had occurred in air traffic levels since 2008.

**Annual General Meeting:
8 pm Friday,
24th February 2012
Memorial Hall, Marford Road,
Wheathampstead
All are welcome.
Our guest speaker will be
Felicity Brimblecombe
talking about the history of the
gardens at Luton Hoo**

Wheathampstead Awards 2012: Nominations invited

At the AGM on 24 February WDPS will again be presenting its awards.

They are designed to recognise the contributions that many local people make to conserving what is best about Wheathampstead, and to making sure that new projects are sympathetic to what we are already proud of in the village. There are two separate categories: a team award and an individual award.

If you would like to nominate either an individual or a team please email

info@wheathampsteadpreservation.org.uk
or phone Sue Johnston on 01582 833679.

Please save these dates ...

Friday, 24 February, 8 pm

WDPS AGM at the Memorial Hall, Marford Road. See front page for details.

Wednesday, 14 March, 8 pm Memorial Hall

Neill Sankey on Cassivellaunus. (Wheathampstead History Society)

Thursday, 22 March, 7.30pm for 8pm Memorial Hall

An evening of old films about Wheathampstead. Free admission, with a small charge for refreshments.

Sunday, 13 May, 2.30 pm Castle Farm, Lower Luton Rd

One of our founder members, Chris Coles, and his wife Ruth are very kindly allowing WDPS to hold an afternoon picnic in their spectacular garden at Castle Farm, Lower Luton Road.



There will be a small entry charge and all the proceeds of the picnic will go to WDPS.

2—5 June. Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee weekend

Various local events are being planned, including the opening of the new riverside garden—see page 1.