

Planning Statement

Headcorn Aerodrome Shenley Farm Shenley Road Headcorn Kent TN27 9HX

Introduction

Resi and Design Squared Ltd have prepared this Planning Statement on behalf of the applicant to support the application for the removal under s73 of condition 7 attached to the original planning permission MA/77/1559

“No aerobatic displays or private or public air special events shall take place without the prior consent of the local planning authority”.

The aforementioned condition has been in place since the planning application was granted and since then, it has been discharged every time the Battle of Britain Air Show is held.



A condition which in the beginning appeared to be reasonable given the uncertainty of how things would be organised for the Air Show, has now become redundant given the level of repetition that comes associated with the applications to discharge the condition. There are no sufficient changes in the content of the application to make the condition reasonable anymore after almost 50 years of repeated discharges of conditions.

Planning History

As mentioned above, a new application is submitted every time the Air Show is being held and it is an extreme inconvenience for the organization of the show and given that each time a new planning officer is assigned to the case, it becomes a tedious process to start again almost from scratch with very little value added as the outcome is always the same.

The planning history of the site includes 50 planning applications which are visible on the planning register.

The documents submitted every year differ little from each other and they include an Aircraft programme, a diagram of the site and the CIL forms that are not relevant to the application. This process has become a habit in the same way as the council always grants permission.

Conversations have been had with Maidstone council about the possibility to remove the condition and the conversations with Rob Jarman in April 2022 and previously with Austin, sounded positive about the possibility to remove the condition that is not benefitting anyone.

The organization is committed to delivering the best services to the visitors while ensuring that everything is returned to the previous state once the show is over and this has been demonstrated every year with the excellence of operations that characterises Battle of Britain Air Show.

Conclusion

Given the above, it is clear that there is no real benefit of the planning condition that has now become obsolete and it does not serve any purpose. As such, the applicant would like to request that this condition is deleted from the original permission and there is no need to keep on informing Maidstone Planning department that the event is going to be held every year. We would like to work proactively with Maidstone Council and make sure this condition can be removed. We consider that this request is self-explanatory however, we are more than happy to supply additional information in case this is necessary or discuss the possibility of rewording the condition so it does not require action every time the air show is going to take place.