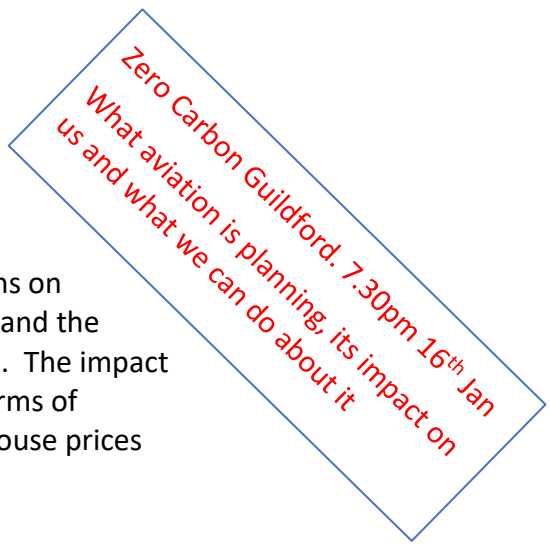


## Happy New Year to everyone.

2025 will be an important year for this area with decisions on Farnborough and Gatwick Airport's proposed expansion and the government's plans to introduce new flightpaths over us. The impact of these decisions will be felt by future generations in terms of pollution and climate change but more immediately in house prices and noise disturbance.



For those of you who have not closely followed developments in 2024:

- Farnborough Airport's plans to double the number of flights is due for decision by Rushmoor Borough Council early in the New Year.
- Gatwick Airport's plans to start operating a second runway are in consultation.
- The government's plans to double the number of UK commercial flights by 2030, introduce much more dense flightpaths over the south east by 2027, as well as more night flights and holding stacks at 3,000ft over places like Petersfield and Farnham is at the final stages of consultation.

It is hard to understand how the government's legally binding commitment to deliver net zero by 2050 is achievable. Especially while the aviation industry plans to double the number of flights by 2030 at the same time it has said it will reduce aviation's emissions by 15% vs 2019 (FYI, they are still growing). Unrealistic and unsubstantiated goals set by governments do little to enhance their credibility and no wonder the public lose (or have lost) faith in elected authorities. Nobody with an unbiased perspective who has looked at the aviation industry's plans for Sustainable Aviation Fuel, electric or hydrogen powered aircraft believe they are credible or achievable, and that includes the government's Climate Change Committee.

The new Labour government has already jumped on the bandwagon of "growth at all costs" without understanding that is a 20<sup>th</sup> century response to a 20<sup>th</sup> century problem. The world isn't that simple anymore and when the money from such growth ends up in the pockets of corporates and the very wealthy, few "normal" people buy it. The situation with our rivers is a case in point and the owners of Farnborough Airport are the ex-owners of Thames Water and now Southern Water. Do we really expect such businesses to make decisions that benefit the population?

The reality in 2025 will be that growth will have to be balanced by the social and environmental impact of such growth and we can expect the courts to decide what is appropriate rather than governments. This has already been demonstrated by the Supreme Court who ruled in 2024 that all emissions must be included in Environmental Impact Assessments and so coal mining and oil drilling in the UK were stopped. Environmental Impact Assessments are also required for aviation's proposed expansion and so all emissions from flights will now have to be included in expansion plans.....

Tickets available at: <https://www.zerocarbondguildford.org/event-details/farnborough-airport-expansion>