



# THE FIGHT FOR MANSTON AIRPORT IS NOT OVER!



**T**his Battle of Britain airport is under an hour's drive from Maidstone. It has the tenth longest civilian runway in the UK (at 9,016ft) and is capable of handling some of the largest long-haul aircraft to grace the skies.

In November 2013, it was purchased by Stagecoach tycoon Ann Gloag with a promise to keep it operating for at least two years. However, she announced plans for its closure four months later, and the Airport ceased operations on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014 with the loss of 144 jobs.

Since then, the Airport was "sold" to so-called regeneration specialists Trevor Cartner and Chris Musgrave, who have submitted an outline

planning application for at least 2,500 homes on the site, as well as a "mixed-use development". The Airport is still designated as an Airport for planning purposes. The owners have attempted to get planning permission for change of use, which was refused, and has now gone to the Planning Inspectorate for appeal.

RiverOak, an American investment company, are working with the Planning Inspectorate to create a Development Consent Order (DCO), a process designed to fast-track proposals considered to be nationally significant infrastructure projects. The plan is to get Manston Airport re-opened as an operational airport.

## WE NEED YOU!

Until now, only the residents of Thanet have really known about the fight to get Manston Airport re-opened. As RiverOak's plans progress, we need to get the word out to the rest of Kent. And you can be a part of it!

- **CONTACT** Maidstone Borough Council, including your Ward Councillors. Advise them of the importance of Manston Airport for the entire Kent economy. Ask them to write to RiverOak declaring their support.
- **TELL** your friends – how many know there is potentially an international airport closer than Stansted or Gatwick?
- **VISIT** the historic museums at Manston – the Spitfire & Hurricane Museum and the RAF Manston Museum rely on visitors and donations to survive, and are beginning to suffer financial hardship without the Airport being operational – they are a brilliant resource for educating children about the Battle of Britain and the history of aviation in Kent.
- **WRITE** to local newspaper letter pages, keeping Manston Airport in the local profile.
- **JOIN** our online campaign on social media, by visiting our website below.

[www.SaveManstonAirport.org.uk](http://www.SaveManstonAirport.org.uk)