



PRESS RELEASE

11 October 2009
For immediate use

**GOVERNMENT NOW NEEDS TO GIVE HONEST ANSWER
AFTER BAA FINALLY PUTS RESIDENTS FIRST**

“Senior BAA figures have also told the Tories the company will cease to fight for the third runway if they form the next government.”⁽¹⁾

In a shock turnaround, BAA has apparently shelved plans to devastate homes and communities across West London and put residents first.

For over seven years, local residents with the support of Hillingdon Council, local MPs and people from across the South East, have been actively campaigning against a third runway at Heathrow. The plans for the airport's expansion, equal in size to Gatwick⁽²⁾, being built in the borough of Hillingdon, represents the most unprecedented social and environmental threat for generations.

Following the Government's unpopular decision in January this year, hundreds of homes would be demolished; villages, schools and livelihoods destroyed and thousands left to a life of blight across West London and the Home Counties.

Geraldine Nicholson, Chairman of NoTRAG said: “For over seven years, residents have pulled together, come together and campaigned together to stop a third runway. This may be our moment and a victory for future generations.

She added: “If BAA can swiftly drop their plans following the party conference season then this clearly shows there has never been a compelling case for a third runway.

I now call on the current Government to follow BAA's welcome decision and abandon its craving for a third runway at Heathrow and at long last put residents first.”

Notes for Editors –

- (1) **[BAA to give up on third Heathrow runway – Sunday Times 11 October 2009](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article6869676.ece)**
 - (2) **<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article6869676.ece>**
- (2) **Gatwick Airport is the busiest single runway airport in the world.**

NoTRAG is an active residents' organisation, supported by the London Borough of Hillingdon, which is opposed to the building of a third runway at Heathrow Airport.