

PRESS RELEASE

3 June 2009

'Homes fit for heroes' ¹
The reality – 'flipping Hoon' - corruption and bulldozing of communities

As we get ready to remember D Day - the sacrifices made so that we might live 'in peace' - and the promise of homes for all let's not forget that this Labour Government intends to wipe a community off the map.

Residents around Heathrow have become used to half-truths and lies but even we are bowled over by the Daily Telegraph's revelations.

NoTRAG's Press Secretary, Christine Shilling, says "Like everyone we're reeling from the 'flipping' stories,² the expense claims, the second homes allowances – the sheer scale of the arrogance, the contempt for the electorate, the injustice we've seen.

Here you see we're fighting for the right to live in ONE home, fighting for our communities. Since 2002 we've been living on death row. Residents here are unwilling to spend scarce money on refurbishing homes a Spanish construction company plans to bulldoze. There is no mortgage interest repayable and no second homes allowance for us on any property we might purchase elsewhere to escape the misery of blight and Heathrow noise and pollution.

Since 2002 NoTRAG has questioned the validity of this Government's claim that a 3rd Heathrow runway is essential³ – that the economic case outweighs the undisputed social and environmental devastation.

We've listened to the lies of BAA – have been told a 3rd runway is not wanted⁴ – then assured it will be a nice new Brown runway – that more flights won't cause more noise and more pollution.⁵ Now we learn that BAA can't even tell us where the perimeter fence will be – they just don't know how many families will be made homeless!"⁶

It's all spin and re-spin – a journey through Alice in Wonderland. But we can now see through the looking glass and it's not a pretty sight.

Hoon, Blears and others who voted for the 3rd Heathrow runway have been doing very nicely at our expense - 'flipping' homes and claiming generous allowances for furnishings, fixtures and fittings.

Hoon admits his administrative errors⁷ – but sees nothing wrong in labelling protestors as criminals⁸ – nothing wrong in a fixed consultation – nothing wrong in the collusion between BAA and the aviation industry. The public don't share his values – or those of others in power.

Despite 'flipping' politicians and 'flipping' BAA NoTRAG will fight on – and on and on - to win. We fight to save our homes and our communities – we fight for our children and grandchildren – for our schools and churches – not for second home allowances and nice furnishings.

¹ Labour party promise to ex servicemen: attributed to Lloyd George

² Redesignating one's second home to maximise allowances

³ CeDelft report 2007 indicates the economic case is unproven

⁴ Sir John Egan 1999: "We have since repeated often that we do not want, nor shall we seek, an additional runway."

BAA spokesman in 2007 we have "no plans for a third runway for Heathrow..."

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/6309541.stm>

⁵ On 15 January 2009 the Secretary of State for Transport, Geoff Hoon, announced that the Government's three conditions for supporting a third runway at London Heathrow Airport had been met. See HOC Library report: Authors Elena Ares, Christopher Barclay, Louise Butcher & Adam Mellows Facer

⁶ Mike Forster at public meeting on 21 May 2009

⁷ http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8078243.stm (2nd June)

⁸ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1187167/State-spying-Heathrow-critics-dossiers-legitimate-objectors-runway-handed-police.html>

Daily Mail 25 May