

SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER 2005 – SHEDDING LIGHT ON BAA'S CONSULTATION

About 500 people carrying torches, glowsticks and banners walked along the route of the proposed third runway at Heathrow Airport yesterday to the village green in Harmondsworth. The rally ended with speeches from Father Phil Hughes, parish priest of St. Mary the Virgin Church Harmondsworth and Heathrow Airport Chaplain, Baroness Sarah Ludford member of the European Parliament, Richard Barnes Hillingdon member of the Greater London Assembly and Lee Griffin, Heathrow villages ward councillor. This event was organised by NoTrag (the No Third Runway Action Group) and was supported by HACAN and FOE.

This event was arranged to co-incide with the ending of the consultation period on BAA's Interim Master Plan for Heathrow Airport. However NoTrag has learned only today that THOUSANDS of West London residents¹ did not receive these documents and therefore have NOT been consulted. Christine Shilling, NoTrag Press Secretary² wonders whether this is by accident or design – strange that stakeholders get consulted but Joe Public is left out of the loop!

¹ Sinclair Road Residents' Association

'Despite being one of the most active residents' associations in West London, we came across the master plan consultation fortuitously; to the best of our knowledge, none of our sister associations was informed that it was taking place. In fact, most Londoners are totally unaware of what is going on, and of the magnitude of the project – which will see twice the UK population use an expanded Heathrow by 2030'

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