

24 January 2013

Sue Tiley
Head of Planning Policy
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Council Offices, The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 6AE

Dear Ms Tiley,

Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan Consultation – Panshanger Aerodrome

I am writing on behalf of the Light Aircraft Association (LAA) concerning the Local Plan consultation and the Emerging Core Strategy with its various component documents as they relate to the future of Panshanger Aerodrome, identified in the plan as WGC4.

The Light Aircraft Association (LAA) is a national association of 8,000 members, originally founded in 1946. It is a representative body in the United Kingdom for recreational and sport flying and is recognised by Sport England as a national governing body for air sports. Acting on behalf of the Civil Aviation Authority it manages the airworthiness of some 4500 sports and recreational aircraft, representing a fifth of the entire UK aircraft fleet and it supports aviation sector businesses and aerodromes.

The provision of sufficient aerodromes for sport and recreational aviation is fundamental to its survival and this is particularly so in the south-east of England where land demand and planning constraints make the establishment of new sites virtually impossible. We are concerned that the proposal to create a housing development on Panshanger Aerodrome would seriously damage the recreational and sporting facilities in the region and destroy a small but important set of businesses that rely on it.

In respect to Panshanger Aerodrome the Local Plan and Core Strategy do not have regard to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework nor with other national and EU policy related to sports facilities and aerodromes. I attach annexes providing an executive summary and technical detail of our comments. We would be grateful if you would take these into account when reviewing the Local Plan.

We oppose the proposed policy WGC4 to close Panshanger Aerodrome.

Yours Sincerely,

John Brady
Vice-Chairman

[Annex A: Executive summary of LAA response to the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan 2012](#)
[Annex B: Detailed response on the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan 2012](#)

Registered Office and Company Address:

Turweston Aerodrome, Nr Brackley, Northants, NN13 5YD

Tel: +44 (0)1280 846786 Fax: +44 (0)1280 846780

Email: office@laa.uk.com or engineering@laa.uk.com Web: www.laa.uk.com

Recognised by Sport England. Member of General Aviation Awareness Council, General Aviation Alliance, The Royal Aero Club and EFLEVA - European Federation of Light, Experimental & Vintage Aircraft. The representative body in the UK for amateur aircraft construction, recreational and sport flying. Patron: His Royal Highness, Prince Michael of Kent . Light Aircraft Association Limited . Reg No. 606312 ENGLAND . VAT No. 665 1994 95

