

Mr Philip Jones comments

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The green belt is the 'lungs' of our city. We need this space to help absorb and disperse the inevitable contamination that comes with the global city that is London. It also provides the buffer to stop the 'sprawl' of our great city and to preserve the character of surrounding towns in the Home Counties, with their individual charm and identity. Having visited the west coast of America even as long ago as the 90s I, for one, want London never to become the Los Angeles of the UK!

There is too much available building land that is allowed to fester and become an eyesore in our cities - legislate to penalise landowners who leave land empty for far too long.

There are too many empty properties in our cities. - 'luxury flats' and others. We should legislate to penalise those that leave properties empty. For me these two points alone make the case to protect the green belt in its entirety - it is ever more needed as we see London expand more quickly than ever before.

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Preserve the green belt to help preserve and improve the air quality in London. Never before has this been so vital at the time when London grows at its fastest rate ever..

London's green belt - the lungs of our great city.

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Grasp the nettle and build an airport by the coast in the South East. Why would you send aeroplanes over densely populated land when you have the opportunity to fly over sea to avoid disaster. Also this option leads to a massive reduction in pollution for those living below existing flight paths.

Yes, a new runway to an existing airport may be the 'short-term' fix, but please look to the long-term and plan a new airport now, by the coast so that the aircraft can fly, land and take off safely over water and not land.

The lesson of the tragic crash at the air show south of London - the parallel of flying over motorways and a built up area, now stopped for the future, should be stark warning enough to make us want to reduce commercial air traffic now over the conurbation.