

## Summary of Heathrow Expansion Survey

Brent Friends of the Earth, February 2008

Seventy-five people who either live or work in Brent responded to street surveys held in Willesden Green and Queens Park between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Of these, 47 took part in Willesden Green and 28 in Queens Park. Although numbers were relatively small, they give a snapshot of opinion about the impact of the proposed expansion in the Borough at this time.

52% of respondents said No to Heathrow, with only 18% in favour and 30% undecided. Queens Park residents were more strongly against the expansion, with over two-thirds (68%) opposing it and 42% in Willesden Green against.

Concerns about greenhouse gas emissions were uppermost in people's minds, with 68% very concerned about this; 66% very concerned about more local air pollution and resulting health problems; 61% about increased traffic going to and from the airport; over half (53%) about the destruction of villages close to Heathrow; 47% about aircraft noise; and a third (32%) about a greater risk of aircraft accident. Taking into account those both 'very' and 'quite concerned' about these impacts, increased traffic came top at 88%, greenhouse gases 87%, air pollution 82%, aircraft noise and destruction of villages both polled 81%, and 56% cited greater risk of aircraft accident.

Other concerns expressed were about improving transport infrastructure, particularly railways, use of other airports, curbs on air travel and the future of the planet. Comments included: "lack of an effective rail system to cut local flights in the UK and near [the] continent", "should use other airports [instead]", "all air travel should be discouraged or rationed" and "Governments just never know when to stop; soon we won't be able to breathe."

Looking at the benefits of the expansion, 57% felt that it would not benefit them personally: this was 48% in Willesden Green compared with 72% in Queens Park. Half (52%) felt it would have economic benefits for the country. Only 18% felt it would benefit local businesses in Brent (a view shared by only 8% in Queens Park and a quarter (24%) in Willesden Green.) Residents were split on whether it would bring jobs to the local area, with 38% agreeing, 28% against and 34% not sure, although half (51%) of those questioned in Willesden Green and only 15% in Queens Park agreed.

An overwhelming 89% felt there should be more information available for residents on how the proposed expansion would affect them. This view was shared by 85% in Willesden Green and 96% in Queens Park. Two-thirds (64%) felt that the Government should have organised a public meeting on the issue – 57% in Willesden Green and three-quarters (75%) in Queens Park.