



Response to the decision of the recent Public Inquiry and subsequent news of the fire at Old Sarum Airfield on Thursday 17th April, 2025

STATEMENT

As a Parish Council we are hugely disappointed with the decision to allow housing development on the airfield. This decision does not reflect local and national concerns about the impact on the heritage of this unique First World War site.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the owners, the businesses and local residents who have been immediately impacted by the devastation of such a fierce and dangerous fire at Old Sarum Airfield this weekend. In particular, two local businesses, the Café and Go SkyDive, who have worked so hard to build up their business within the heart of the local community.

We express our thanks and gratitude to the emergency services for their expertise and skill in ensuring this event was not more widespread and that nearby businesses and the Boscombe Down Aviation Collection were not also threatened by this event.

We recognise, that in the light of the recent Public Inquiry led by an Independent Planning Inspector there is much grief and frustration at this sudden loss of the grade 2* listed Hangar 3 at Old Sarum airfield, an important part of our community's heritage, which has stood for over a century and seen service in two world wars.

The heritage impact of the restoration of the hangar was a key part of the planning inspector's reasoning in the recent appeal decision to allow large-scale house building on the site. We hope that this decision will now be reviewed in the light of these events, and that the custodians of this heritage can find a way to continue a meaningful legacy of this heritage, ensuring the businesses who have suffered from this fire are helped to re-build and remain as part of the community.

ENDS

19.04.2025