

# Aircraft noise is 'intolerable'

Flight plans haven't changed – claim

AN "intolerable" level of noise is being caused by planes flying over villages in Crow country.

Residents of several South Cambridgeshire villages, including Litlington and Steeple Morden, have been affected by what they claim is an increase in air traffic in recent months.

The planes are commercial jets, thought to be flying in to Luton and Stansted Airports.

Alan Pipe, of South Street, Litlington, said: "The noise is really terrible com-

pared to what it was like in the past, it's becoming intolerable now.

"We've been having these problems for about a year, and the trouble is that it's so unpredictable – you can have planes going over every couple of minutes for an hour or two, then nothing, then they'll start flying over again in the middle of the night."

Mr Pipe, who is also a Litlington parish councillor, said: "They're definitely a lot lower than they used to be as well. You can read the logos on the side of the planes whereas before they were just dots in the sky.

"I've got double glazing but even with all the windows closed you can't escape the noise. If the economy picks up and more flights are scheduled it's only going to get worse," he said.

County councillor Linda Oliver is taking up the concerns of the residents with air traffic control officials.

She said: "We're told flight plans haven't changed, but the experience of local people is different. Planes are coming over every couple of minutes and it's a real nuisance.

"I am trying to get hold of the current flight plans so that we can compare them to old ones I have. Then we will see whether there really is a difference or not."

A spokesman for the National Air Traffic service (NATS) said: "Planes are taking the same flight paths as they did before, but because there are fewer scheduled flights at the moment, air traffic controllers are moving planes around so they use different paths at different times.

"Because of this people may experience aircraft coming over at different times than they are used to, but planes are not flying any more frequently or any lower than they have done in the past."

Aircraft noise of a different kind caused worries for villagers earlier this year, when pilots participating in the World Aerobatics Championship were making daily flights to practice over the Ashwell area.



Matthew Gooding

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TIME FOR A STORY: Pupils snuggle up in t

## The big b

IT WAS time for bed at a village school when pupils were tucked in for a bedtime story.

Children from Sandon first school donned their pyjamas and came back into school to be read a bedtime story by professional storyteller Peter Hearn.

The school hall was turned into a giant bed, complete with duvet and

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