Yeah, it’s very very cheap, comparatively, to fly to many many places now. Which certainly, a few years ago, flying was a luxury, but now it’s affordable for many many more people. Well, these words: carbon emissions, carbon footprint, boom and low cost airlines are run into debate that’s going in England at the moment about Heathrow Airport. Because a new terminal G to opened very soon. Which means an extra thirty million passengers. But there’s also talk of possibly more expansion of the airport. Which is upsetting some people who live near by. Now Susan Kramer is a politician living in London, an MP. And what is her concern about this?

The noise that people live with, the intrusion on peoples daily lives, the impact on peoples lives is just an insult to the quality of life in London. It’s a very strong feelings there.And she talked about impact on quality of life. What does that mean? Well, it’s the effect on the quality of life. And we often naturally hear the word impact used in the context of the environment. “The environmental impact” on something. So usually it means how it’s going to affect the environment.

Well, we’re going to hear from someone else now, who’s David Willetts. He’s also a politician, a leading figure in British Conservative Party. And he thinks it’s a good idea to expand Heathrow Airport. Why? Listen to find out.I thinks it is important to understand that one out of ten of a population unadvised, who live in the Borough of Hounslow- work at Heathrow. That is a very important role economically. It’s the biggest single employer of the country. Today David Willetts there was saying that actually many of the people who live in Hounslow, which is the area where Heathrow is, work fir the airport. And he says how is important role economically. So he’s putting forward what you might call “the economic argument”. Yes, the financial argument. Because it provides work for people in the area. So, what does Susan Kramer think of the economic argument?

The economic argument is absolute trash and nonsense. I mean nobody is saying that you shouldn’t have an airport in London, but the additional expansion has nothing significant to offer London’s economy. We have sufficient flights, we could be transferring to hight speed rail. She said: “the economic argument is absolute trash and nonsense”. Yeah, she’s not happy about it. She obviously has something she feel very passionate about. The word she used there was “expansion”. Uh huh, getting bigger- expansion. If things expand, they get bigger and the noun is expansion. Well, let’s hear one more view on this. This is from Inayat Bunglawala from the Muslim Council of Britain. Now who does he think is really responsible? Listen to find out. In the end it’s up to us. If we didn’t fly, well which we are. All of us are flying more, a lot of capacity is needed. And we can’t blame anyone except ourselves for what is happening. Today we go. Who’s to blame, according to him? According to him, it’s our fault. Because all want to fly. So he says because we’re flying more the “capacity” is needed. What does he mean by “capacity”? Oh, the capacity is the size of the infrastructure, the size of the facilities that are there, in this context. So what do you make of all this Colum? Do you think you fly too much and also contributing to a…? I think I’m probably bit of a hippiedom on this, because I might say it’s a good thing to try and reduce a carbon footprint, but if I can find a cheap flight somewhere, I will. Exactly the same with me. Well, just before we end the program, let’s have the answer to the question: “How many passengers go through London’s Heathrow airport a year?” And you absolutely right, sixty seven million. That’s more than a population of the country. Yeah. It’s a huge number. A lot of it is international air transfers as well, people going through in transit we would say. Um, but obviously this number is going to increase, so it’ll be bigger and bigger. That’s all we’ve got time for this week. But, do you join us again for more “6 Minute English” next week. Good bye. Bye.