

Epping Forest District Council Representations to the Draft Local Plan Consultation 2016 (Regulation 18)

Stakeholder ID	2506	Name	Samantha	Wickers
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Method	Email
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Date	5/12/2016
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Letter or Email Response:

I am writing to lodge my absolute objection to the draft local plan and the desire of EFDC to build houses on our open green land in Loughton. The plan sees hundreds of new homes squeezed onto unsuitable sites in our already overcrowded town. The loss of Jessel Green and Rochford Green will fundamentally alter the character of Debden and remove much-loved green space. Those spaces are well-used by the local community - by residents, children, dog-walkers and for local events. The building of new homes on the sites of Traps Hill car park and the station car parks will also remove the open aspect of these parts of the town - no one wants to see multi-storey or underground car parks which will destroy the nature of the area. Loughton is not a London suburb and should not be treated as one. Since I moved to Loughton ten years ago the influx of people into the area has been huge. Local roads and transport, particularly the tube, are at breaking point with little scope for expansion. There is no more room in our schools - almost every primary school has been forced to extend its premises in the last three years to cope with the current demand. Where will any more children who move into Loughton and Debden go to school? The wait for a doctors or dental appointment is also already ridiculous without these additional properties and people. The local plan does not provide solutions to these issues - and if all the available land has new housing built on it where will a new school or doctors' surgery actually go? This is incredibly short-sighted. There are other sites which should be considered for housing - poorly used industrial brownfield land should be taken first, for example run-down areas in Langston Road. WHY has EFDC not considered the creation of a garden village as other councils have? A bespoke development with the appropriate infrastructure built in would stop Loughton being ruined for future generations. The area around Woolston Manor has been named locally as a suitable site - has the council considered this? Are there other sites on land between the main towns/villages in the district that could and should be looked at? The local plan in its current form will ruin our town. We do not want to see the few green and open spaces we have taken away and replaced with hundreds of new homes. We do not want to see towering blocks of flats or multi-storey car parks in our town centre. We do not want hundreds of extra people stretching local services and resources further. We want Loughton and Debden to remain leafy green places that people can enjoy living and working in for generations to come. Please help us keep it that way.Redacted....

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