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

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Letter or Email Response:

I am making this response as a long standing resident of Epping Forest . I moved to Loughton from Nottinghamshire over twenty -five years ago to teach in several local primary schools including St.Andrew's Primary School in North Weald and several years at the Alderton Junior School in Loughton .Since 2001 I have commuted to work in central London . I have been a member of Loughton Town Council for over eight years :representing three different wards {Forest ,Alderton and Roding] which between them provide a good cross-section of the Loughton population's socio-economic and health indicators . It was my intention not to make a personal response as the LRA. and Town Council have spent many hours discussing a response however I am minded as an elected member to send a few lines at the eleventh hour because I was shocked the low response numbers of the public . Whilst understanding why professional planners have suggested excessive infilling in places where communication links are good ..... Epping , Theydon , Loughton , Debden and Chigwell I think many Loughtonians wonder why more housing is not suggested on North Weald airfield . As the draft plan notes traffic is a serious problem in both Epping and Loughton . Recently I have been around in the middle of the day in both towns and the high roads have been grid- locked . Air quality is very poor from the pollution and with increasing levels of childhood asthma and late onset asthma in adults filling these towns to the gunnels will make things much worse . Whilst recognising the special constraints of Epping Forest area (Green Belt and protected Epping Forest) in planning our housing sites till 2033 we have a duty to try to protect the pockets of green spaces left in the former London housing estate known as Debden . These greens are as valued by their residents as the Theydon Green or Roding Valley Recreation ground are to their immediate neighbours . There is widespread resentment at the prospect of more developments like the Flats on the site of the former Winston Churchill site . Residents really don't want high rise development . Please make three floors the maximum . There is a desperate need for affordable housing ; some of which is at a social rent . Developers are regularly wriggling out of their targets telling us they can't afford it ! If infilling on Loughton's car parks is to take place adequate parking has to be provided as parking for residents and commuters is a serious issue. When reading the draft plan it made me wonder if the authors had ever tried commuting on the Central line at peak hours . I honestly wonder if the Central doesn't have the capacity to cope with the increased level of commuters . The infrastructure plan seems aspirational . Is it really a good idea to build on the cricket ground on Coopersale or at Limes Farm , Chigwell ? Despite the years taken to produce the plan the final stages seem to have been very rushed . Six weeks is the minimum period for a Consultation 18 and many residents are distracted at this time of year . Most residents in the south of the District would just like to feel their opinions were listened to in Epping . I hope the consultants have followed various social media sites in the last six weeks so they are in touch with public opinion . ....Redacted....

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