

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

Stakeholder ID	3899	Name	janet	stracey
Method	Letter			
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Letter or Email Response:

Dear Sirs Response to draft local plan My family have resided in Loughton for the past 35 yrs. My children have grown up here and I walk my dog daily in the forest and surrounding area. I have witnessed and experienced substantial change in Loughton not only in its demographics and immigration from Eastern Europe but also in provision for education and other services. I am now retired from the teaching profession but make use of the Central line into town twice a week, use the leisure facilities at Traps Hill and shop in Loughton. I attended the consultation meeting at Murray Hall on 17th November and listened with increasing anxiety to the implications of intense development on our green spaces and car parks. I grew up in North London where we had access to two wonderful parks catering for every age - boating Jakes, tennis courts, cafe, aviaries, playgrounds and so on. We do not have such areas in Loughton. Instead, we are told, we have the forest and Roding Valley nature reserve. Children need to be active, feel safe and be outside to develop their wellbeing and mental health for the future. These open spaces are vital to families where children can play safely. The forest is a wonderful place and sanctuary to wildlife e but I would not let my children play in the forest by themselves. We have already experienced relaxation of planning laws which has seen development and infilling of gardens and replacement of single dwellings to apartments. The impact this has had on Loughton's infrastructure (sewage, roads, transport) in particular is onerous. Our Central line is increasingly under pressure. On several occasions out of rush hours I have had to stand as trains are full. listened with interest to Paul Morris' contention as a builder that Loughtonts sewerage system cannot cope now let alone with another 1100 dwellings. Schools have sold off playing fields for development. As those developments encouraged families to move in, the schools became full to capacity and oversubscribed. We are told that our schools now are oversubscribed. Where is there provision for new schools in Loughton? Indeed with all this development and provision for 1100 dwellings and the capital created, will it be ploughed back into improved services for Loughton? I think not. We have seen a significant drop in services caring for our environment and encouraging us as individuals to care for our environment which is so precious. I am amazed as a dog walker at the deterioration of our pavements, even in the so called conservation area of Baldwins Hill. No bins for dog litter but plenty of notices informing us of fines for dog fouling and draconian notices informing us as drivers entering Loughton from Wakes arms that our number plates are checked by pol ice. People respond to encouragement to do the right thing. We want Loughton to be a nice place to live. We want the District Council to do the right thing. This local plan is evidence that the ...Redacted.... Short term gain seems to be its priority. Once our open spaces are built on they are gone forever. We will still need new dwellings in 2030. Please think long term. We need to consider a new garden village similar perhaps to Church Langley in Harlow. There is a possibility of 37ha on Willingale Road Debden (SR 0564i) open fields, with a capacity of 2,079 dwellings. Surely this is ideal. Services and infrastructure already in place. Epping Forest is seen as the "lungs of London". As a Loughton

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resident I feel extremely lucky to live in its open environs. Please consider our children's future carefully. Yours faithfully