

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

Stakeholder ID	1527	Name	Anthony	Yeulett
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Date	30/11/2016
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Letter or Email Response:

Dear Sir or Madam, I am writing to express my concern over the threat to Jessel Green and Rochford Green. While, in contrast to many other suburban London communities, there is no real park in Loughton, Jessel Green and Rochford Green are very important open, recreational and aesthetic spaces at the heart of the Debden community which afford a much needed and literal breath of fresh air. I have now lived in Loughton for the last 28 years. During most of this time, I worked in Walthamstow for 24 years. This was often very stressful. One of the reasons I never moved any nearer was because of the immense sense of relief I used to feel in coming home to this community because of its green spaces. I feel the same way still whenever I drive back out of London. There is no doubt that I could have saved myself a great deal of time and money by moving closer to my place of work but the sense of relief I feel from being in a community with the freedom of open spaces with something more to it than just endless dreary buildings full of cooped up residents with nowhere to go but work or the shops was something I wasn't willing to part with. If this space was "developed" (to use a word that makes it sound as if something better were going to happen to it), I as one of the very many residents already local to them, would feel robbed, isolated and almost as cooped up as I feel in my place of work. As a teacher, I am well aware of the need for children in particular to have somewhere secure and open where they can run around safely and let off steam. These greens are also places where people can meet together or wander freely on their own, unwind and releases some of the stresses of the week. Rochford Green in particular is a great social hub where local residents can meet informally and casually and feel a greater sense of having neighbours and belonging to a community. It's a space where parents can talk to others while their children play safely in open view. These are also spaces where teenagers also can let off steam in a positive way. Without them local young people are more likely to wind up "hanging about in gangs on street corners" as they have nowhere else to go. What games and activities will they be able to do there? Is it not in the interests of all that they can release their excess energies by kicking a ball about or riding their bikes there. Though I state the obvious, these spaces are also free to use; no one has to pay to go there. If and when further amenities are made available to people, this will inevitable not be the case. Moreover, any other specific amenity is also the more likely to appeal to one or other age or social group within the community at a time. Jessel Green and Richford Green by contrast are places where anyone can go at any time without any charge whatsoever. We need such spaces in the midst of the Debden Estate and they are not there by accident but were planned into these areas from the beginning as a provision to the community. If these spaces are built on, the damage done to the sense of wellbeing in the community will be irreversible. I understand that there is a government mandate to provide land for new homes in this area and across London. I would strongly urge, however, that Debden's sanctifying green spaces are not sacrificed for this purpose. Yours sincerely, **...REDACTED...**

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