

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

Stakeholder ID	3778	Name	Rachel	Newby
Method	Letter			
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Letter or Email Response:

Dear EFDC, I am writing to you to register my objection to your development plan. I am very disappointed that the plan includes the possibility of building on several green spaces in the Debden area and this makes me both incredibly angry and terribly sad. I am flabbergasted that the plan includes building so much in the Loughton area full stop, considering the great strain our amenities are already under. Anyone who travels at 'school run' time can see for themselves that our streets are congested. The princess Alexandra Hospital is 40 minute drive away. Roads leading to it will be more congested, the hospital is already very busy with not a parking space to be found! The tubes are crowded and seats are not available in to central London from Theydon Bois onwards. Our schools are oversubscribed, for example my daughter will not be able to take advantage of her free 15 hours at nursery when she becomes 3 as there are not enough spaces at Willingale School. She will miss out on a whole term!! Parking for Debden station spreads throughout the town and goes all the way down The Broadway. I have friends who live as far down as 208 and often can't park outside their own house due to commuter's cars being there all day long. Of course your answer to these issues will be that infrastructure will follow and grow to accommodate (where will you put that? on our last blade of grass!!!!) there is so little room already. The roads will be ruined and children will have to travel miles to schools until amenities have been built. The plan should concentrate on Brown field sites and redevelopment for housing over the top of retail establishments both in Debden, Loughton and on Langston road. A totally 'new village' idea would be best between Debden and Theydon, Debden and Chigwell or in strategic places near Harlow. Loughton high road is having construction work done next to Molens, the Winston Churchill pub has gone and a monstrosity is in its place. Land on car parks in Vere road and Torrington drive has also been claimed for housing. 'The campus' estate is now established, the post office sorting office will become residential and the Golden Lion site will become housing. There are new pockets of housing all over the place. Most of them will be totally unaffordable for anyone on an average wage. Please just stop there! ! More dwellings nearer to stations is preferable but not ideal as those people WILL own cars and WILL need to park them and drive through the area. Debden's green spaces are well used and give us some much needed 'breathing space' and something great to gaze upon through all the seasons in an already very built up area. I urge you to not build on our gorgeous greens, particularly Jessel Green. Our green spaces are vital to the community and its health (both mental and physical) and I feel are particularly beneficial to young people who spend time with their friends on the greens without disturbing the peace of its surrounding households. This is great for their independence, they are away from the busy roads and surely is helping towards tacking obesity? TFL are thinking of reducing the bus services between Loughton and Debden so how are the people from the Debden side of Loughton supposed to get to the stations to work? They will require cars, yet again increasing traffic congestion. Fitness groups meet regularly on Jessel green, people walk their dogs, children play, the air ambulance uses Jessel Green as a landing pad, people jog,

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it is used as a safe 'cut through' to the bus stop for many Davenant students and the council run the stay and play sessions on there in the summer which are very well attended and much appreciated by mothers like me who cannot afford to do trips out in the holidays. Apparently my letter is supposed to include 'evidence' of why you should prioritise other sites to develop and leave some well alone. I'm almost certain that my 'lay person speak' will count for nothing in this sense but I'm having 'my say' anyway! ! Consider the surface water issues and localised flooding. Jessel green is often boggy and waterlogged. Where will all the displaced water go? Sewers will not be able to cope and roads will become unusable. I am very lucky to have a garden close to Jessel green which my children use all the time but we still take picnics on to the various greens in good weather . When we lived in a flat with no garden the trips to the greens were vital in keeping me sane and giving my children the run around space they so desperately needed. Families NEED these spaces. I am certain that losing the greens will create more illness and less 'wellness' of the local population (I'm talking about mental health as well as the obvious increase in pollution and less space to walk, play and be healthy) it has most definitely been a healing place for me. I urge you to leave the green spaces of Loughton out of the plan and put them under protection giving them village green status. This town will choke not thrive if we lose our 'village greens'. Regards Rachel NewbyRedacted....

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