

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

Stakeholder ID 1536 Name Rebecce Elena Bedier

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Method Email

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### Letter or Email Response:

Dear Councillor Girling, I am writing to you in reference to the Draft Local Plan for our open spaces in Loughton, in particular Jessel Green upon which 195 new homes are proposed. I wish to express our opposition to these plans and the negative impact they will have, particularly for the future of our young daughter and other families within the area. The plans will destroy our immediate green environment, Jessel Green provides vital recreational space for our community and of which it is utilised frequently (children, dog walkers, exercise groups, summer fetes etc). It is proven that greens such as ours are good for mental and physical health of residents; Mental Health and Obesity are extremely important issues nationally and it seems a simple solution for our Council to help support these causes by keeping our green spaces; rather than contributing to a problem that will then have to be resolved within the ever pressured and under-funded NHS. Most importantly, I am extremely concerned about our local amenities & services, they are already under strain and therefore dramatically increasing the local population will only exacerbate the problem further. There are no plans for additional schools, Doctor surgeries, Midwifery services, Hospitals (both A&E depts are over 15 minutes drive away, in good traffic), transport links, waste collection etc. Subsequently, I feel it is pivotal to highlight the impact on children in the area, the proposed homes will be within a very short distance of 4 schools: 0.3 Miles from St John Fisher Catholic Primary School 0.3 Miles from Debden Park High School 0.5 Miles from Hereward Primary School 0.6 Miles from Davenant Foundation School Not only will the increased population make it even harder for local children to be accepted into their chosen catchment schools due to a lack of spaces, but the increased traffic and pollution will also be damaging to the local environment for these children. Furthermore, during the construction process it would be highly dangerous to have HGV's and construction vehicles so close to where so many children currently walk to school and play; in addition to air and noise pollution. Other elements of our existing local amenities and services are already being taken away and not added to in support of an increasing population; such as, the local 167 bus being removed from service in this area of Debden. Whilst attending a local Children's Centre class at Little Oak's, we were told that the Sunrise Children's Centre is closing; another lifeline to residents being taken away. Our local roads are in an appalling and dangerous state and often full of heavy traffic, with these houses this will increase further. How will our crumbling road network cope with this? What provisions are being made to make our roads and pathways safer for children as a result of these plans? I also wanted to note, in light of recent events, that we have seen the Essex Air Ambulance service use Jessel Green a number of times in the past few years to assist with emergencies (most recently Saturday 19th November). Without the green, there would be nowhere for this service to land and potentially save lives! In conclusion, there are many unanswered questions within the Draft Plan and based on the proposal, this letter is a request to strongly reconsider this Draft Plan, these plans will have an

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extremely negative impact on the environment and for our children. Thank you for taking the time to read this and do contact me if you would like to discuss this further. Yours Sincerely, **...REDACTED...**