

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

Stakeholder ID	4445	Name	louise	bowling
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Letter or Email Response:

As a resident of Debden, I strongly oppose the plans to build houses on Debden's open spaces for a number of reasons. My family and I have lived at **...Redacted...** for approx. 12 years and have both personally enjoyed and watched from my window the green space outside of my house being well used by the community. The dynamic of this space is extraordinary with people of all ages coming together to interact and share it. We see young adults (usually much maligned these days) getting involved, organising games here with younger children having fun and fostering a sense of belonging. Older residents particularly use this space to exercise their dogs (and in turn themselves) as it is not as vertical as most of the other spaces (much easier on the knees!). One of the most joyful things you can ever see is a child learning to ride their bike and happily, this is often seen - we need the safety of these spaces for children and families to play!! Together as a community, we are all happy to pass the time of day and the nods of acknowledgement are important to make people feel visible and part of the wider world. Feeling isolated is a terrible thing for people of all ages and leads to numerous issues - sharing this space is very important to the mental and physical wellbeing of the community. The fact that there has never been any nuisance behaviour on Rochford Green is massively telling - this green is well used, well loved and well respected by people of all ages. The proposals would change the feel of the area too much - Debden is a special place, notably because of its open design and variety of green spaces. I know there is a housing shortage but concreting over Debden should not be the answer. I very much doubt that even 5% of the proposed dwellings would be accessible/affordable to local residents, so how can you protect the demographic of the area? As a commuter, I know that the Central Line is already under enormous pressure. Realistically, only people working in Central London would be able to afford to live in the proposed properties, it's just not going to work. In addition to this, the infrastructure to support a huge increase in local numbers just isn't there. Where are the children going to school? What about doctors? We're currently waiting nearly two weeks for an appointment. We have already lost out local police presence and public transport is being cut - how can Debden support a large increase in population? Our roads are falling to pieces and local councils do not seem to be able to maintain them to an acceptable degree - what will happen if 1,000's more vehicles are added to the mix? This is not a case of NIMBY'ism, I know that the South East is short of housing/overpopulated. Debden was created in the 50's and 60's - as a project, it has worked wonderfully well in making a real community. Use Debden as the model - look for areas where you can build on a large scale and residents can forge an identity/community together - shoe-horning large numbers into existing communities, while destroying what makes that area special should not be allowed. Surely with the advent of CrossRail and CrossRail II there is the potential to build elsewhere that will have ready made transport links. Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please, please do not allow our town to be altered beyond the point of recognition - we need to preserve all

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the green spaces we can. They are a hugely positive element to the identity and well being of the area and long may they remain so!