

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

Stakeholder ID	4330	Name	eva	blasco
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Date	12/10/2016
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Letter or Email Response:

We have read the Draft Local Plan and are shocked by the proposed changes to Loughton. The primary reasons for us moving to Loughton 5 years ago were the open spaces, the surrounding forest and the village feel. These are all things we felt confident would be retained and would continue to set Loughton apart from many towns. We understand the need for housing, especially affordable housing which is so desperately needed, however as commuters to London we are all too aware of the burden on the Central Line. Six years ago we were able to get a seat during rush hour at Buckhurst Hill; today we rarely get a seat at Loughton, and you can forget about a seat at Buckhurst Hill. Transport for London continues to be blamed for this however it is evident that local councils that build houses without considering the impact on an already over-crowded transport system need to start taking accountability for the problems they create. We have numerous concerns over the Draft Local Plan however our focus is on the proposed Jessel Green development (SR-0361 : Colebrook Lane/Jessel Drive Amenity Open Space, approximately 195 homes). We have taken advantage of this beautiful open space many times as have our neighbours and friends. It is beyond belief that anybody would consider building on this land. It is a safe place for children to play, somewhere for people to walk their dogs and have a picnic, a picturesque site for local residents, a place for wildlife and nature and a critical landing site for emergency services. Building on this site would deprive the community of a well-used recreational space, could endanger our children and could mean lives are not saved. We would ask that you consider our appeal and preserve Jessel Green. If this open space is built on, there is no going back; irreversible damage will be done. Much of Loughton's surrounding green spaces cannot be used for recreation due to them being private, inaccessible or impractical so please use brownfield land instead of destroying a valuable recreational area that contributes to the well-being of our community. Why aren't you planning a garden village like other districts? Why are you focussing on urban intensification when we don't have the infrastructure to support it?

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