

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

Stakeholder ID	1564	Name	Rachel	Radmore
Method	Email			
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### Letter or Email Response:

To Whom it May Concern, Re: Draft Local Plan I am writing to object to the draft local plan and oppose the propositions to build on Debden's open green spaces. As a resident of Rochford Green, we chose to buy our house over 10 years ago due to it's location facing the open space. As a young newly married couple we bought it in anticipation of growing a family and having many valuable times enjoying the open space as a family and with friends and the local community. Now that are children are 6 and 2 we feel this green open space is vital to their development. My 6 year old son loves the space to play football as our garden is only approximately an area of 25 square meters with very little of it being grass to play on. He is an active and physical boy who needs this regular exercise for his physical development and this is also nurturing a great love of sport which will be hugely beneficial to his physical, mental and emotional wellbeing throughout his life. He has written his own letter to you to ask you not to build on 'his green' (see attached). My 2 year old daughter loves the openness of the green and cherishes the times when she can run as far as she can and still be safe. She loves to explore the leaves fallen on the grass, the trees, the flowers and is mesmerised when she discovers bugs and creatures. As an early years teacher, I understand that all these life experiences are incredibly beneficial to her development and to nurturing her curiosity about the world and about her own physical abilities. My children love the park and through most of the year it is full of children from at least the two local primary schools and some of the secondary school pupils too. Groups of children then love to run over the field and play. My children love to meet with friends on the green and to have picnics, games of football or exploring with their peers and this is a vital part of their wellbeing and social development as well. My husband enjoys incorporating the green in to his running circuit and benefits from the openness of this recreational space to not only help his physical health but also to impact his emotional and mental wellbeing when working in a stressful career. **...REDACTED...** I greatly benefit from opportunities to marvel at creation and wonder at the beauty of the oak trees at the top of the hill. We have deliberately ensured that our lounge windows are large and clear of obstructions to benefit from the openness of the beautiful view and to marvel at the changing of the seasons (see attached). This is an element that the whole family treasure and is key to our wellbeing as many studies show the benefits of seeing natural green spaces in your daily life. If this green was lost then as a family we would really be disadvantaged (and the same goes for every family with young children surrounding this green and for future generations). We would have fewer opportunities to be physically active, fewer ways to be sociable in an active environment, fewer chances to nurture our children's love for physical activity and fewer moments to marvel at the world outside and regulate our emotional and mental wellbeing. This green and others like it need to be protected for future generations as open recreational grounds and certainly not built upon. Having lived here for over 10 years we have seen many people use the open space for varied

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reasons: dog walkers, children playing, people exercising, football matches, children learning to ride their bikes, to rest and connect with friends and recently a group of people met to let off lanterns in memory of a loved one. Friday Light youth group relocate from the Restore Centre to Rochford Green in the summer months and provide an invaluable service of engaging a large number of youth in suitable social activities each Friday night. With very limited youth provision in Loughton and Debden it would be a great shame for this to be impacted upon. I also have concerns about the practicalities over planning to build so many houses throughout the Debden and Loughton area. Firstly, Rochford Green struggles with heavy rains and has a large section that becomes very boggy for prolonged periods. If houses were built here then our house and many others would surely become at risk of flooding. Secondly, as our road is set down lower than the green already facing South West, if housing is built on the grass we would lose a great deal of sunlight and put our house into darkness which again would have a major negative impact on all our wellbeing. Thirdly, the Local Plan seems to have targeted the key green areas across Debden by planning to build on Rochford Green, Jessel Green and Lucton's Field you are destroying the leafy suburban environment that residents cherish. These areas are key for the fantastic community events such as Fun days, firework displays and the daily benefits of open recreational space as stated previously. Fourthly, Debden and Loughton are already majorly overstretched in terms of resources and infrastructure: GP surgeries under performing; schools already oversubscribed and we have lots of them for a small area; tube service heavily overcrowded; roads full of horrendous traffic (particularly Rectory Lane and the Langston Road junction which is an embarrassment as to how poorly it copes with the traffic load and even the new road layout is highly unlikely to manage it); bus services being cut instead of improved; parking from commuters clogging local roads; stretched emergency services and poor air pollution levels. Surely building thousands more houses in our already heavily populated area can't be the best answer. Could you please tell me why Epping Forest District Council are not planning to build a garden town like other authorities are? It makes a lot more sense to lose one patch of green area amongst the mass green expanse than to take every piece of highly valued green out of a populated area. I hope that you will consider the severity of my concerns as a local resident who greatly cares for this community and wants the best for the residents here of all ages and for future generations to cherish this locality too. I ask that you send me receipt of this email and that my views along with all these concerned residents are listened to and a better plan is put in place that cares for this area and doesn't just look to destroy the value and community feel here. Thank you for working to improve this area. Yours sincerely, **...REDACTED...**

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