

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

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Letter or Email Response:

To whom it may concern Having studied the proposals identified in the Draft Local Plan, I have set down my objections to those proposals in the following paragraphs. Local Services: I am really concerned that existing local service providers in health and education will not be able to cope with an influx of another 1200 households. The NHS is already stretched to breaking point and standards are falling. The influx of 1200 new households will inevitably stretch local doctors and schools even further and the extra resources required to meet the increased demand are unlikely to be sufficiently funded. Similarly, roads and trains are likely to become more congested than at present and all of these aspects will lead to a deterioration in the quality of life for the existing residents in the district. I appreciate that the Local Plan is at draft stage only, but I cannot understand how residents can be expected to comment meaningfully on the proposals when there is such a lack of information in any detail. I would expect therefore that further details will be put forward for comment, before any Local Plan is adopted and in particular, how local services might be expanded to cope with the proposed increase in the local population. Green Spaces: I am particularly opposed to the proposal to build homes on Jessel Green and Rochford Green. Over the past decade or so, a number of studies have been undertaken, and these have identified the numerous benefits that these spaces generate when set in urban and suburban contexts. For record purposes, I have set down the benefits that these studies have identified - benefits that will be lost to the local community if the existing proposals are adopted. 1. Environment . Green Spaces minimise air, noise and water pollution . They may reduce CO2 emissions through absorption. . Green Spaces allow the natural dispersion of rain and river water. If these spaces are taken for housing, there will be no natural run off of rainwater and the likelihood of flooding will increase. 2. Community Benefits . Green spaces create opportunities for social contact, promoting social cohesion and friendships, and spaces for recreation and cultural purposes. These opportunities will be denied to the local community if these spaces are built on for housing. 3. Health Benefits The National Health Institute carried out a study into the benefits of Green Spaces, in the context of health benefits accruing. At the time of a nationwide problem with obesity, the Institute stresses the importance of access to spaces for physical exercise, to help ameliorate the problem of obesity. The report also cites that stress and fatigue can be reduced through the use of available green spaces. 4. Conclusion If the Draft Local Plan were to be adopted in its current form, the local community will be deprived of the many benefits that Jessel Green and Rochford Green bring. I am therefore strongly opposed to the proposal to build on these spaces. Further to all this I don't think there are any other sites that can be built on , other than maybe the excess land along Langston road But what would solve this problem altogether would be to just build a new town in the lots of green belt land between Harlow and Cambridge, though it is lovely countryside, it is not accessible open green spaces that the general public can access Nicola Wingrove

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