

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

Stakeholder ID	1947	Name	Joanna	Saward
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Method	Letter
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Date	1/3/2017
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### Letter or Email Response:

I wish to make 2 comments: The first is in relation to the specific site at The Gables. The old Ongar comprehensive school was demolished only for there to be a need several years later for a senior school in Ongar, hence the new one being built. As the document currently under consultation is a "forward plan", I think it short-sighted to consider demolishing the sports centre to build houses instead, when a town the size of Ongar needs such a facility, the new school could benefit from use the swimming pool and so on. I do not agree with building houses on the sites of existing useable infrastructure. The second is in relation to available sporting facilities in Ongar. I am connected with Ongar Rugby Club, and I would direct planners to issues which our club faces regarding available space to play which are already on the public record - please see 2016 Ongar Town Council minutes and as part of the planning approval for the new Ongar Academy. The pitches we currently play on behind the sports centre are to become the new school playing fields, and there is no additional space available for us to rent at the Ongar Town Council owned site at Jubilee Park, Love Lane, Ongar. One possible solution to this issue would be for a S106 agreement for the first site in Ongar that is to be developed to include provision for new playing fields and a clubhouse. This need not be exclusively for rugby use, but for the community as a whole, as the shortage is across sports. I would urge planners to look at this issue as they consider the development of Ongar. As an aside, additional sporting facilities could also be used to encourage those of senior school age to participate in sport, giving them something constructive to do in their spare time. There isn't really much for this age group to do in Ongar.

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