

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

Stakeholder ID	2454	Name	James	Watts	Theydon Bois & District Rural Preservation Society
Method	Letter				
Date	9/2/2017				

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Letter or Email Response:

I wish to lodge a formal complaint on behalf of Theydon Bois & District Preservation Society with regards to the 'On Line Response Form' for the Draft Local Plan Consultation. I base this on my own experiences with the form and a considerable number of complaints made to me by members of our society and other Theydon Bois residents. I had previously pointed out some problems with this form by email to our Parish Council and to John Phillip, EFDC Portfolio Holder Planning on Wednesday 7th December. I believe our Parish Clerk forwarded my email to EFDC. The issues with the form are:

1. You do not get a comment box until after you check a tick box. Further you can't un-tick the box or change it after you have added comments to the box. Many people have expressed the wish not to use these boxes as their opinion could be misinterpreted out of context with their comments.
2. Even if you use the tick boxes some question e.g do not allow you to make a 'general comment' to the question. You have to tick a selected area.
3. After you hit Submit you can no longer go back and edit even if you have done a Save just before. If you saved your link this no longer works to return you to the document. You should have been allowed to edit up to the closing time for the consultation.
4. It is not apparent after you have selected a document to up load with the consultation that the up load was successful.
5. I have had 3 attempts at getting an e-mail link to return me to the document and have not received one. I have of course checked my 'spam' settings etc. I did save my link, but many who have complained to me did not.
6. One would expect to get a confirmation email after you 'Submit' your form confirming that it has been successfully received. Many people have told me that they abandoned the form. I did complete it, but I am concerned as to whether our society's comments will be received at all or in the way we intended. I have therefore delivered a hard copy of our response to the EFDC Offices before the deadline. We are concerned that many people who intended to respond using the on line form will not now make a response and / or if they have left it till today they will not be able to meet the deadline. In our opinion the closing date should be extended to allow those who have had a problem with this form to respond by a different route and EFDC should publicise this extension.

Response to the Draft Local Plan Consultation 2016 (Regulation 18)

Stakeholder ID 2454 Name James Watts