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

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Method	Letter				
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Letter or Email Response:

I have completed the consultation on line questionnaire on this plan and feel that I need to add to this with my thoughts and views. My husband and I moved to North Weald in July 2003 moving from Chingford where traffic and life were getting too busy and not the place where we wanted to start our married life and have a family. We were drawn to North Weald as it had a Village feel to it, a smallish number of houses with a small number of shops a pub and restaurant. It was far enough out to be in the country with several fields around us but within reach of larger towns such as Epping, Harlow and a train line not too far away. The Airfield and the local areas history is great and important to keep, it is a real shame that the Redoubt fort is in such disrepair! We liked the fact that the house we purchased and still live, we are told, was ex RAF. There are several unoccupied and derelict houses in our area and I am sure in the other areas, and, along with land that is no longer used, these could be made available to make provision for the "needed homes". If the government is insistent that more houses are needed, then these need to be the focus points first. My family and I regularly visit the airfield attending shows, the famous market and the squadron cafe which I am sure you are aware is a museum. We also like to walk across the common, ride our bikes around the fields and flood plains and supporting the Epping Ongar Railway. Your proposal on paper looks to more than double the size of our "Village", completely changing and losing what we moved here for. It is mentioned that the expansion is not only for North Weald but for 18 other Towns and villages, I must question is whether this amount of expansion REALY is necessary. Ifear that Harlow will end up connecting with Thornwood and we shall lose all green space and end up like Chingford and Highams Park where I am from. I am sure if you work in the council offices that you have experienced the current traffic situation and how easily Epping the A414 into Harlow and the MIIroundabout get easily blocked. Even with another junction on the MII (not that details of this have been put forward in this plan) the roads in the area just will not cope! The plan wants to add these homes. However, Epping Police Station and Court House have just closed! Again, if you are local and are feeling ill, it will take currently three weeks to get a non-urgent appointment at the limes! This can only get worse if these extra homes are built without extra infra-structure provision. I fear that this year was the last time that we will see the surviving WWII veterans come over from Norway to commemorate their lost companions. It feels that you are proposing to lose their memories as we lose their presence. Many small airfields are being forced to shut at a time when we should embracing and encouraging their planes, money and enthusiasm to our HISTORIC airfield. The 02 runway is 1920 meters long and this enables a variety of planes and jets to land. Ido not doubt the need for more homes but it would benefit those being housed, nor the present residents, if the area is over developed. I sincerely ask that you re-examine these plans and modify them considerably. Thank you for considering my views. I look forward to your further comments. • High character sensitivity detrimental to open and rural area

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