

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

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Letter or Email Response:

Response to Draft Local Plan Question 1: Overall Vision The aim of improving the quality of life for the people of Epping Forest District to provide new homes, jobs and infrastructure to meet these needs, is sound as whilst I personally have no problem with more new homes being built in the area, the quantity suggested for a town the size of Epping does seem Excessive. There is not very much information given to the additional infrastructure that will be needed to support this growth. Parking in the Town is at 'breaking point' as are school places and doctors surgeries (it is laughable to suggest that the Limes, for instance, can accommodate an extra 50% capacity). Please can residents be appraised therefore of the infrastructure improvements that will be 'put in place' to support this quantity of housing before the plan is passed? Question 2 Whilst I am not against new homes being built, I feel the number of houses being required of Epping is too many. Harlow wishes to increase in size so it would seem sensible to locate more of the new housing requirement there, I do not agree with the release of any of the green Belt as once it has been done it will set a precedent going forward. Question 5: Employment Increasing Employment in the area is commendable but losing our leisure centre and sports club would result in loss of employment. If these sites are deemed ripe for housing then the facilities should be replaced within the Epping area so that not only may the jobs be retained/grown but local residents can still access these facilities easily and not have to rely on journeys to get to, say, Harlow/ Loughton. Question 7: Infrastructure Providing infrastructure to support any proposed additional housing in the Epping area is vital. Parking is already a major problem so considering building on our existing car parks must be called into question. Road traffic has increased dramatically and is compounded should there be a problem on either M25 or M11. School places are already stretched, as are doctors' surgeries. Anyone using the Limes will know that waiting 6 weeks for an appointment seems to be the norm. To accompany extra housing therefore we need better roads, more schools, more surgeries, more leisure facilities and much better car parks which are looked at in the round and not simply by 'rolling out' residents car parking systems, road by road. Question 9: Other Comments A diverse selection of shops and businesses is to be welcomed. It would be good to have more information and timescale on the St John's Road site which seems to be taking forever to get started. It would also be helpful to understand what type of housing is being proposed. If a large percentage of our demographic is moving to the over 50's for instance, will there be suitable housing for this age bracket included? Where will 'affordable' housing be sited? Finally, the aim of planning for the creation of a vibrant and thriving district going forward is a laudable one. I am sure there will be many fears and objections voiced but we cannot adopt a NIMBY stance and I welcome considered, appropriate and sympathetic development. Yours faithfully,
Joy E Moon

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