

23 January 2018

For the attention of the Independent EFD Local Plan Inspector

Re. LOU.R5

The following letter describes why I feel that it is important that Jessel Green is not only removed from the Local Plan, but that it is issued with Local Green Space designation to protect it from future developments.

Jessel Green is important for my family's health and wellbeing, and it would be heartbreaking if it is destroyed.

I also object to the proposed development on the grounds that it will negatively impact Debden's community spirit, and that the local infrastructure can not support 150+ additional households.

Please see below for details.

Health and well-being

, and the plethora of green space was one of the main attractions of the area. My new garden is very small and does not accommodate my active family, so we are reliant on public green space for exercise and fresh air.

I initially thought that I would travel to Epping Forest in my leisure time but, as I have a baby in a buggy, this has not been logistically possible. Instead, my family use the amazing open space at Jessel Green for exercise and leisure. We go for walks on the green, play in the playground, fly kites on the hill, play with a football on the flat area and - with incredible excitement - sledge down the hill on snowy days.

In the words of my 4-year-old daughter, "It's lovely and pretty and it's got trees. It's got mud under it [*i.e. it's not concrete!*] and I can run really far on it".

The wide open space and the views over the surrounding area made me feel free(er) from my anxieties about my family and job. It was definitely a positive contributory factor in my recovery.

If Jessel Green is destroyed, then my family's health will suffer tremendously, and we will also lose the ability to clear the pollution of London (where we travel to work) from our lungs.

Community spirit

Of everywhere that I have lived, Debden has the best sense of community and I truly believe

that it is Jessel Green that brings people together.

My family attended the amazing community event last summer, and we will definitely attend any and all future events on Jessel Green.

Jessel Green is truly loved, appreciated and valued by the community. If the national and local governments want to foster community spirit and combat loneliness, then the preservation of Jessel Green is essential.

Infrastructure and capacity

I was appalled to see the plans for the high-density development of 150+ private houses. They will truly be an eye sore and will over-burden the area's resources.

Based on my experience of living in Debden, I do not believe that the area has the capacity for so many extra residents. I struggled to get my 4-year-old daughter into a local school, and had to endure the trauma of an (unsuccessful) appeal and then the waiting list system. My son's nursery is also oversubscribed with over 70 babies on the waiting list.

Local childcare and education services cannot cope with the current population, let alone 150+ more households!

As a family, we also struggle to get appointments at our GP surgery and health centre.

Conclusion

The decision to destroy Jessel Green would be irrevocable; the space could never be restored and the community would never recover. It is imperative that Jessel Green is preserved and protected for my family, all the families in Debden, and all future generations.

PLEASE SAVE AND PROTECT JESSEL GREEN! I BEG YOU!

Yours sincerely,

Helen Munn