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RT. HON. ROBERT HALFON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

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Local Plan Regulation 19 Representation  
Planning Policy Team  
Epping Forest District Council  
Civic Offices  
323 High Street  
Epping  
Essex CM16 4BZ

29th January 2018

Dear Sirs

I am writing with reference to the above consultation which is currently taking place. Residents and local organisations have raised a number of issues with me about Local Plan and I now have a number of matters that I would like taken into consideration as part of the Examination in Public process.

- 1) The villages within my constituency of Hastingwood, Matching, Nazeing, Roydon and Sheering have their own unique identities which need to be preserved and any development within these areas needs to be appropriate for the setting. The impact of any urban extensions of Harlow which extend towards the villages of Roydon and Sheering should be carefully considered to ensure not only a measure of separation (green wedge) but that the combined effect of development in both the village and urban areas does not have a negative impact on those already living in these villages.
- 2) On-site infrastructure within any urban extension needs to be provided alongside housing development so that schools, doctors and other services in neighbouring areas do not become overwhelmed. Capacity within village schools needs to be examined as even limited village development could result in children not being able to attend their local school.

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- 3) There appears to be a lack of off-site road infrastructure being proposed and the plan's assumption that the use of public transport/walking and cycling by those living in urban extensions will be significant. Congestion is an on-going concern for those who have contacted me and they can only see this issue deteriorating further as a result of what is being proposed. I would therefore like to see more emphasis given to off-site road infrastructure.
  
- 4) I have significant concerns about the number of traveller/gypsy pitches proposed for the urban extensions around Harlow particularly as I see very few sites proposed for elsewhere in the Epping Forest District. Planned large-scale urban extensions for other areas such as Epping have seen no traveller pitch allocation. Roydon and Nazeing already have the largest proportion of traveller pitches anywhere in the district and this proposal will concentrate the majority of all of the district's pitches in the north. This is contrary to planning guidance which aims to avoid over-concentration in a particular area 'to promote peaceful and integrated co-existence between the site and the local community'. Proposals within Harlow's urban extensions, when combined with the town's existing traveller pitch provision and those in the surrounding village areas, show an even higher concentration in one area. I am also unsure how the allocation of traveller pitches within an area designated for housing development is going to achieve this stated aim of peaceful co-existence particularly as the settled and traveller communities do not seem to wish to live in close proximity. This could impact on the number of homes that could be delivered.

I should be grateful if you could consider these matters as part of the Local Plan consultation process.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]  
t Halfon MP

c.c Sajid Javid, Sec of State, DCLG

Tel: [REDACTED]

*Please reply to the constituency office*

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