

Mr. & Mrs Mallon

24th January 2018

Local Plan Department
Epping Forest District Council
Civic Offices
High Road
Epping
CM16

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Jessel Green – Local Plan

I write with reference to the proposed building works to Jessel Green and other sites marked for development within Debden.

I am .

Our area has something that many communities across the country desperately want and are in need of – outstanding green spaces. Our green and open spaces are what make Debden and Loughton such desirable places to live and we consider ourselves very lucky to live here.

It is truly devastating that we are now faced with the very real threat of these green spaces being given up for development. Not only will our children and future generations suffer from all the ill health effects that will surely come with having our recreation and outdoor spaces built upon, but our local amenities and facilities will be impacted upon to such an extent as to be rendered useless. As there are no plans within the Local Plan to provide the extra facilities that will be needed by the hundreds of people that will inundate the local area, our schools, GPs, dentists, parking and traffic situation will almost certainly collapse.

It stands to reason that our already oversubscribed schools will buckle under the demand that hundreds of new residents will place upon them. And what then? Will the schools have to resort to building portacabins on their school fields and playgrounds to accommodate them? The same with GPs and dentists. We simply do not have enough NHS medical and dental practices to accommodate the massive influx of people.

Parking around the area is already at breaking point, with commuter parking spilling out into all surrounding areas, residential and non-residential alike. One only has to drive along the Oakwood Hill industrial estate to see the endless queue of cars parked, which are left there by parking-desperate commuters. The residential streets around the stations are no better. The fact that both Debden and Loughton Underground station car parks are earmarked for development is absolutely devastating to an already unbearable volume of cars and parking.

The council have just spent millions on redeveloping the junction at Landmark House, yet one only has to witness the endless snake of traffic from the Broadway, all the way back to Wellfields every weekday morning to see that it has barely impacted on the traffic flow at all. Imagine the carnage if our area has hundreds of new homes, each with two or even three cars per home.

Our area simply cannot cope with the numbers that are being proposed.

I have used Jessel Green since my childhood, . , and I use Jessel Green regularly with my own family. My young children enjoy a fit and healthy lifestyle, with the freedom to run and play on a beautiful outstretching green, safe and distant from the road. They can run at full tilt and for a distance without fear of cars and they are all as fit as can be as a result. In the summer months we use it for meeting with other parents and my children's school friends to enjoy picnics together. It is this sense of community, social gathering and our children forming strong relationships that will be lost to development. If we lose our green spaces, what incentive is there to entice already inactive children to leave their computer games behind and enjoy the outdoors?

In an age where obesity is at epidemic proportions, the privilege our children have of running free in an outstanding green space such as Jessel Green is a privilege fewer people than ever are enjoying, as widespread development devours our green spaces at a terrifying pace.

I have seen the new flats being built on Burton Road, next door to Sainsburys. The flats are built almost onto the pavement. This has all the hallmarks of the tenement blocks in London that my parents fled when I was a baby, to give us a better life with green spaces, forests and trees to enjoy. We are now going backwards; building dense and high, packing the flats in with barely a garden between them.

If we are in the midst of a housing crisis, the answer is not to just decimate every slither of grass we can possibly cram several flats onto. We will have nothing left to leave to our children, except the fumes, pollution, cement and endless rows of flats and housing that our parents left behind in London.

We must fight to preserve our right to breathe cleaner air, for our children to be able to run free and enjoy what nature has given us – Jessel Green, and countless beautiful open spaces like it. The residents of Debden have the Human Right to a decent quality of life that has been enjoyed since Debden was built and this is at very real risk of being destroyed by overdevelopment.

Debden cannot cope with hundreds more people, cars, pollution and parking.

I, along with hundreds of others fighting to protect our area, am desperate that our greens are protected.

I therefore respectfully request, on behalf of my family and I, that the proposed development is removed from Jessel Green.

Yours sincerely

Leigh, Grant, .