

Dear Independent EFD Local Plan Inspector

I am writing with regards to site number LOU.R5 (Jessel Green, Loughton) to highlight why I feel this site should be saved and protected.

I am sure many local residents will be contacting you to explain how they feel building on this site will affect the local community, however I am in a unique position Jessel Green so I will instead focus on the direct and immediate impact that not removing and protecting this site will have on myself, my wife and our young family.

My wife and I purchased this house and as I'm sure you can imagine the green area played a major part in us deciding to make this our home.

I grew up on a council tower block, my garden was a 6ft x 1ft balcony way up in the sky that I would not dare go near for fear of falling over the railings.

By time my wife and I were in a position to get a house of our own our son was coming up to two years old and I had made it my mission to give him an opportunity to have a different childhood to the one that I had.

I thought that in purchasing this house I would forever give him the chance to be able to go outside and play, a basic but extremely challenging and worrying thing in this day and age.

My wife and I have worked extremely hard and sacrificed so much throughout our entire adult lives so that we were able to buy a home for our family

The green has been everything that we dreamed it would be, this morning my wife and my son went for a run up and down the hill, a couple of weeks ago we all created memories in the snow that will last a lifetime! My son has made friends playing football, learned to ride his bike and was taught how to build a kite by a wonderful 87-year-old man at the Jessel Green community day. I could fill up books of memories of good times had on Jessel green, it truly is our little slice of heaven.

I guess at this point I should be clear about the impact that not removing and protecting this site will have on myself, my wife and our young family and it is not that we will no longer have the benefit of a green space on our door step.

Picture 2 is an artist impression of how Jessel Green may look when it has been built on. (I believe that the number of houses has been slightly reduced so the site may not be as covered as it appears in picture 2 but it will be similar)

It is my opinion that the moment Jessel Green is officially approved as a site that could possibly be built on, our house will become unsellable. We are located so close to such a large development site that I honestly believe no one would consider purchasing our house until after any development is fully complete and we could be trapped in limbo for many years with our lives on hold before any work even begins on the site.

During this time what happens if my wife or I lose our jobs and are unable to afford our mortgage? If we are unable to sell our house and downsize we will end up having to default on our mortgage and go bankrupt.

During this time what happens if our personal circumstance change and our family grows and we are unable to sell our house so that we have enough room to live?

I know that companies exist that offer to buy any house but I have looked into this briefly and I do not believe that they would offer us anywhere near what our mortgage value is so the banks would not allow us to go down this route.

I have taken advice on this matter from local Estate Agents who unfortunately agree with me and if

you have any doubts I ask you to look at picture 2 again and ask yourself would you purchase a house knowing that it is the intention of the council to build all of this on your doorstep?

As I said I will focus my letter around what I feel is the most important point right now (the financial ruin of my family) but I would like to add a brief note on my concerns of the health of my family being located so close to such a large development and the impact that this development would have on the quality of our lives as it is being built.

I watched the final vote on the local plan and was left with the impression that many councillors were unsure if this plan was right but were fearful that if they did not agree to the sites put forward in the plan then the government would force them to build thousands of more houses across the district. This has made me feel like some of the councillors have voted to sacrifice my life so that the government doesn't take over and do this to more people – this makes me collateral damage! I categorically do not feel like my voice has been heard during this process and instead feel like my life and the future of my family has been boiled down to nothing more than a statistic in a report.

I consider myself to be a kind and considerate person, I have many friends that are still living at home with their parents and understand the country's need for more housing. I sympathise with anyone unable to get on the housing ladder as I have struggled and fought to get myself in the position to buy my own house so I know how hard it is, however we are not statistic in a report, we are not a percentage of people that oppose to building on a green belt site and we are certainly not heartless people that do not care about the needs of others - we are people whose lives will be ruined unless you can help us find a way to remove Jessel Green from the plans and protect it.

Picture 1:

Picture 2:

Picture 3 below shows the view from my house now and picture 4 shows the type of view that I may have after the development is built (picture 4 is of the development built in Debden earlier this year)

Picture 3

Picture 4



Picture 5:

Many Thanks

Michael Crossley