

26th January 2018

The Independent EFD Local Plan Inspector
Epping Forest District Council

Dear Sir,

Proposed EFDC Local Plan

I am writing to strongly oppose LOU.R5 (Jessel Green) being included in the proposed EFDC Local Plan and request that it is removed from the Plan, saved and protected with the issue of Local Green Space designation. If this does not happen the Council will rip the heart out of our community.

I set out below my reasons for making this request:

- I moved into this area originally in 1951 and have used Jessel Green throughout my residency. In childhood we climbed the trees, played hide and seek, football, cricket, celebrated bonfire nights and many other activities. In later years, I have repeated a lot of these events with both my children and grandchildren and have also enjoyed the events organised for the wider community. Community days are extremely important as it allows neighbours to get to know one another in a joint social environment and share their pride in their environment. It is particularly important for the elderly and disabled in the area who do not have family locally to socialise and support them.
- The area surrounding the site LOU.R5 has already over the years lost green spaces due to the sale of school sites and farming land for housing with the inevitable result of pressure on the current infrastructure i.e. the roads, the schools, doctors and Central Line.
- We are already beginning to struggle with bored and obese youngsters in the area and yet our Council want to remove an area which is actually used by many children for active pastimes. Surely, we should not be just building houses to bring even more children into the area by taking away the facilities for children already living in the area.
- Our roads are struggling with the weight of current traffic in this area, our schools are struggling with a lack of availability (despite having four schools in one road), we have to wait days for doctor's appointments or settle for a consultation on the telephone and as for travelling on the Central Line – it is already more than overcrowded. Now we are expected to accept having these problems increased by the influx of even more families.
- I know that I live in a high density housing area, but there is high density and then there is UNFAIR HIGH DENSITY HOUSING.
- The main reason I have stayed in this area is because although it is a high density housing area, it has been saved by the few remaining green areas giving a feeling of space, but our Council are turning it into a total urban area. This is especially not good for our mental health as to just be totally surrounded by buildings is suffocating and depressing, especially in the winter. It was originally planned as a garden estate and the Council are turning it into a total

bricked urban area with no areas for the community to gather.

- Our Local Resident Association Councillors have proposed alternatives to building on Jessel Green and put forward very valid objections on our behalf, which have been summarily dismissed by our Council and have they not had access to see the evidence used by the Council which justifies the Council's decision that Jessel Green should be built on.
- The Council have also currently totally dismissed the hundreds of protests from current residents regarding this site, which is absolutely appalling when they have removed other areas in their own back yards.
- It seem absolutely congruous that when the Government is backing garden city developments, fighting obesity, trying to get to grips with mental health issues and say they are listening to the people that our majority Conservative Council is treating us with utter disrespect.

Please do not allow Epping Forest Council to rip the heart out of our community and remove the area LOU.R5 from the proposed Local Plan to be saved and protected by being issued with Local Green Space Designation.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Barbara Tomsett