

Dear Sir/Madam

Site LOU.R5

I am writing to give you my reasons for saving Jessel Green from any kind of development.

I first came to Loughton in 1991 and lived in River Way, enjoying the Roding Valley parkland behind our maisonette, easily accessible through our back gate. We were very lucky to live there and our young children were free to play there. In 2012 I moved to this address in Audley Gardens, though my children were older, (19, 16 and 12), they still enjoyed the parkland but this time on Jessel Green. They would grab a football and head off, its less than 3 minutes walking distance. I was pleased they were outside and exercising instead of sitting in on video games. As they have got older, they would picnic with their friends on the hill and once I got my dog in 2013, we all spent time walking him on the green. In particular I got to know so many other dog walkers while I walked Roy (my collie). It became apparent to me that for many people, their dog was their only companion at home and being out on the green was their opportunity to meet other people and share that common bond that is being a dog owner. Every day you will see a group of dog walkers together at the top, at various times during the day. Without the green their dog walking would send them off in different directions around the streets. These may not be young people but often older, retired people who for too long are treated as invisible, whose needs aren't deemed so important. We are talking about mental health here for the people, combating loneliness, sharing experiences, knowledge and, of course, physical exercise not only for the dogs. You cannot underestimate the importance of being out in the fresh air and being sociable. It's another way of keeping a check on the wellbeing of friends and neighbours.

This green space may not be an area of outstanding natural beauty, but amongst the urbanisation of Debden it is outstanding, it allows the area to breathe. It is accessible from all sides. It's a place for all ages, it's outstanding feature is the view that is afforded, not just from the top but on the way up the hill, even 1 house built on the green would spoil this place that I love.

Not everyone who loves this space will be able to email and fill in online forms, but that doesn't mean they don't care. The process is complicated but people's love of this area is simple and deep. People are standing on the Green in the dead of winter, pledging to fight for the space, despite the weather, their health or lack of hope, despite the poor timing of council meetings (14th December). The same people were in Murray Hall months ago and we knew no-one in planning would listen to us then, but we have carried on and will carry on fighting.

Please help us.  
Carolyn Bentley