

Stakeholder Reference:
Document Reference:

Part A

Making representation as ELAF - Essex Local Access Forum

Personal Details		Agent's Details (if applicable)
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Part B

REPRESENTATION

To which part of the Pre Submission Epping Forest District Local Plan does this representation relate?

Paragraph: Local Plan Objectives

Policy: None of the above

Policies Map: No

Site Reference: None of the above

Settlement:

Do you consider this part of the Pre Submission Local Plan to be:

Legally compliant: No

Sound: No

If no, then which of the soundness test(s) does it fail? Positively prepared, Consistent with national policy

Complies with the duty to co-operate? Yes

Please give details either of why you consider the Submission Version of the Local Plan is not legally compliant, is unsound or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate; or of why the Submission Version of the Local Plan is legally compliant, is sound or complies with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible. Please use this box to set out your comments.

(1) Local Plan Objectives (p20 & p21)

A. Environment and design

There is an issue with the obstruction and temporary closure of Public Rights of Way during development which makes parts of the Public Right of Way network un-safe to use and inaccessible, often for several years in the case of large developments. Alternative routes are either not provided or they are unsatisfactory being longer and may require moving along roads that may be busy and have no footway.

For this Plan to be considered sound, an extra paragraph A (vii) is suggested as follows:

(vii) to ensure during the development phase, that ALL developments maintain access to and along public rights of ways (footpaths, bridleways & byways) or provide safe alternative routes, that are not substantially less convenient and that are accessible to all users of the categories of rights of way affected.

D. Infrastructure and Movement

In keeping with the Equality Act and ECC's ROWIP (Rights of Way Improvement Plan), for this Plan to be considered sound, an amendment should positively include reference to the Public Rights of way network & Open Access Land and access for all types of users. An extra paragraph D (iv) is suggested as follows:

D (iv) to ensure that access to and of the Public Rights of Way network (footpaths, bridleways & byways) and Open Access Land including Common Land is maintained and improved for leisure use, including experiencing the countryside, for the promotion of healthy lifestyles and to encourage sustainable NMU (non-motorised user) connectivity. Access must be facilitated for all users including people with buggies, dog walkers & people with less flexible hips/ knees (i.e. no stiles) and, as far as possible, for users of mobility scooters & wheelchairs.

Please set out what change(s) you consider necessary to make the Pre Submission Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to the test you have identified in the question above (Positively prepared/Justified/ Effective/ Consistent with National Policy) where this relates to soundness. You will need to say why this change will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

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If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination?

No, I do not wish to participate at oral examination

If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

Please let us know if you wish to be notified when the Epping Forest District Local Plan is submitted for independent examination

Yes

Signature: Essex Local Access Forum - Chairman Date: 29/01/2018