

Epping Forest District Council Representations to the Draft Local Plan Consultation 2016 (Regulation 18)

Stakeholder ID	4165	Name	B	tomestt
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Date	2/12/2016
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Letter or Email Response:

I am writing to lodge my extremely strong protest against the draft Local Plan and in particular the Council's plans for Jessel Green. I fully understand the need for housing, but equally important, if not more important, is the health and wellbeing of current residents of the area. If the Council continues to nibble at our green spaces as they have over the last few years, we may as well be living in an inner London suburb which will inevitably lead to this area inheriting their problems too. Jessel Green has played a vital role in the wellbeing of the local residents since I moved into the area in 1951, having been used on a regular basis by individuals and for community events, e.g. dog walking, children being able to play ball games, picnics, an area where the elderly and those who cannot venture too far can take a pleasant stroll because the area is flat.. Also the air ambulance lands there for easy access in local emergency situations and as you are probably already aware, it has done so quite a lot over the last few weeks particularly. Many of the local green areas which are left in the area cannot be used for the aforementioned activities because they are hilly or privately owned. When the National concern is highlighting rising obesity and stress resulting in poor mental wellbeing, the Council should be giving major thought to their current residents and on how they can ensure that people stay healthy, happy and able to enjoy the environment where they live. Taking away their few remaining green facilities is not going to do that. Whilst other Essex districts are planning new garden villages, your Local Plan is destroying ours. We have already over the last decades lost land at Fairmead School (2 sites), hereward School Infant Site as well as part of the playing fields at the current Hereward School, plus losing local landmarks such as Winston Churchill Public House etc. all to housing. Give us a break and let us keep some green areas. Why are you not utilising the brown land as a priority for this additional housing such as the Clinton Cards site in Langston Road and I am sure there is other such land. I cannot believe how the environment has changed since I moved into the area and how much housing you have managed to cram into this area to its detriment and although I do accept there is a shortage of housing, it cannot be built all in one area. What made the Debden Estate such a pleasant place to live was the fact that when planned, it incorporated the green spaces, so although you were living in a high density housing area, you never felt like it. Now with more and more housing/flats being crammed in and the extra traffic being created in the surrounding areas, the community feeling for the area is being eroded and history shows once you lose the community spirit, the area dies, we do not want this to happen to Debden and I am sure that it is not what the Council want either because it brings its own problem!!! Your plan states that you are planning to build 195 homes on Jessel Green. Where are any extra children going to go to school - my understanding is that there is no spare capacity in our current schools, despite there being in our immediate area already four schools in one road, namely Willingale Road, resulting in the traffic at times being horrendous for a non-major road and becomes one way traffic at times with all the parked cars. We already have to wait two weeks to see a doctor or dentist, how much longer will we have to wait, not including

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hospital appointments? If you are intending to build new schools and surgeries, where? On even more of our precious greenbelt land or porta cabins on the current schools' playing fields. The surrounding roads are already in such a bad state of repair that you are lucky if you do not damage your car when travelling in the area, how on earth is the Council going to keep on top of them or afford to maintain them with even more vehicles using them. Soon it will be like travelling on the M25. Our current infrastructure is already failing to cope in all areas and the Local Plan will just add to this if it is passed in its present form regarding Jessel Green. In so far as any extra children are involved, it is time we looked to sort out the problem we already have, in that Council in the main only cater with public play parks for young children and we currently have teenagers with nothing to do hanging around Debden Broadway and Loughton High Street in big groups and getting into mischief and it is very intimidating if you have to walk through them. Surely before building so many new homes and bringing in even more children to this particular area, you should be considering facilities for those who already live in the area and get them off the streets, perhaps a skate park or something similar. Please, Please, Please look again at your Local Plan - I am sure you can do better than deprive us of our bits of greenbelt land that are left. I would greatly appreciate receiving a response to this e-mail.