

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

Stakeholder ID 3820 Name (Name not provided) Spinks

Method Letter

Date 1/12/2016

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Letter or Email Response:

I am utterly dismayed at the thought that the council could be actually considering building on these beautiful green spaces. Debden estate works predominantly because of these green open spaces. I was brought up on a 1970s style council estate in London and I have seen at first hand the ramifications of living in a built up area with no flat green spaces. It stifles the feeling of community when there is no easy access for example to walk your pets, which in turn enables you to meet and talk with people in an open and safe environment, hold community events, play games etc. These greens also enable children and youths of all ages to gather and play all types of sports, and have that all important exercise that we all say that the youth of today should be getting. It is also obvious that field games occupy children and youths and discourages them from turning to hooliganism. Councils around the country are pulling down over urbanisation estates because they do not work. You have a chance to learn and not copy others mistakes. The main reason I moved to the Debden estate was due to the greens and the many uses they enable. I have attended many organised community events on the greens and it is always such a spectacle to see so many local people being able to mix together in a relaxed environment and bond together to build a strong feeling of community. Through these events I and my family have met a developed many friendships. Please do not under estimate the significance and importance of these greens. Just the simple ability to look across the greens and see recreational activates going on is a source of comfort in this hectic world that we live in today. Yes, the country needs more homes but not at any expense. Surely the Council can be more creative than to just see a green space and try to shoe horn more properties onto it. You are our representatives and we trust you to make good decisions. To build on these spaces would be a big mistake. I know, I have seen and lived in an over urbanised environment. You may believe you are solving a problem, but you would be creating more socially complex problems for the future. There are plenty of brown field sites that you could utilise to build on and initiatives you could explore. Please do not let it be that you are remembered as the council that made such a catastrophic mistake and built on these green spaces, decimating a community with all the social problems it would cause and have that as your legacy?

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