

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

Stakeholder ID	3932	Name	L Brittaine
			Sheering Church of England Primary School

Method	Letter
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Date	12/9/2016
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Letter or Email Response:

Response to housing developments in Sheering and Lower Sheering proposed in EFDC draft local plan 2016 Sheering Church of England Primary School is a small village school, which this year celebrated its 200th anniversary. "The school is much smaller than most primary schools"- Ofsted report 2016. The same report classified Sheering Church of England Primary School as a good school. Sheering Church of England Primary School was identified in the Commissioning School Places in Essex 2015-2020 Report as one of only 4 primary schools within the county as having deficit capacity for the academic year 2014-15. This deficit in capacity remains the case for Sheering Church of England Primary School in the current academic year. The school is presently full to capacity with 108 pupils on its roll. The relative small number of pupils at the school is an important factor in helping all stakeholders within the school environment seeking to uphold the school's vision statement that all pupils are given the "opportunity to be the best they can because everyone matters". The School already supports many children with special needs as parents have chosen Sheering school because of its inclusive nature and good results with vulnerable and SEND children. Compared to national figures, the percentage of children on the SEND register is significantly higher than other schools (17.6% of pupils on SEND register compared to 12.1% nationally and 2.8% of pupils on EHC (Education, Health and Care) plan compared to 1.3% nationally). Appendix C in the Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan 30.09.2016 forecasts that in the 2019/20 academic year the school will be under subscribed by 20. Judging by the current level of demand for places at Sheering Church of England Primary School we find that forecast somewhat optimistic. The draft local plan proposes to release land from the green belt within the village of Sheering to build 117 homes. Adopting the standards contained in 6.2.4 Primary Schools Infrastructure Requirements this would result in an additional potential demand for 35.1 places at Sheering Church of England Primary School. Even if the forecast spare capacity at Sheering Church of England Primary School in 2019/20 is accurate, the projected increase in demand for primary places resulting from such a significant expansion of the village could not be accommodated at Sheering Church of England Primary School. Building 26 homes in Lower Sheering would create an additional potential demand for a further 7.8 places. If numbers at Sheering Church of England Primary School were reduced in order to adopt the Department for Education recommended spare 5% capacity ("headroom"), the projected surplus of demand over available places would be increased further. Sheering Church of England Primary School is constrained from expanding by its current site capacity. Conclusion Sheering Church of England Primary School would not be able to absorb the increase in demand for places resulting from the housing developments proposed in the EFDC local plan.Redacted....

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