

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

Stakeholder ID	3154	Name	Kali	Smith
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Letter or Email Response:

I write to you in response to the Epping Forest District Council Draft Local Plan. Specifically, the proposals to build on our open green spaces, including Jessel Green and Rochford Green. My family moved to Loughton 3 years ago, attracted to the area because of its open green spaces and village feel. Jessel Green ...Redacted.... I have been using this green space with joy. In the summer it is a perfect place for family picnics, outdoor games and sporting activities. When it snows, it's the perfect place for sliding down the hill with abandon. All year round, it's one of my favourite places to exercise, walk my dog, or simply to stand at the top of the hill looking over the local area I fell in love with the first time I saw it. I walk through Rochford Green every morning on my way to Debden tube station and invariably every day, even at that early hour, it is being used by dog walkers and people exercising. I walk through it again on my way home, and more often than not it is being used by children playing ball games in the warmer months is filled with families and neighbours socialising. Jessel Green and Rochford Green are used every day by very many people. In addition to their everyday use by the community, many local events are also held on these spaces, particularly on Jessel Green. They are places where neighbours, friends and communities frequently gather to socialise, exercise, educate, play and relax. Our lives would all be poorer if these spaces were lost. Wherever and whenever new housing may be built in the area, I am concerned that there won't be the facilities or the infrastructure to cope. Already my neighbours and I have to often park our cars a distance from our homes due to car parking space on the street becoming scarcer (many of us do not have off street parking attached to our homes). I often struggle to get a GP appointment at my local surgery at a time that suits me and therefore have to wait many days (sometimes weeks), or take time off work. The Central Line is already at capacity and struggling to cope without adding more commuters into the mix. We have increasing problems with litter and anti-social behaviour (including public drug dealing/taking) in our area already, and I have no doubt that these problems will only increase if new housing is built, especially as I am sure there will be insufficient, if any, additional money available to address these issues. If new housing must be built, there are already swathes of poorly utilised land in the area, including brownfield sites, which could be used for this purpose instead. Using this land would have much less of a negative impact on the existing community. Or surely creating new garden villages is a real possibility, as other districts are already planning to do. We need MORE public open green spaces in our area, not less. What we have is only just adequate for the existing population. Much of the open green space in the area is private land that we are unable to access, or it is too hilly to be accessible to everyone or for specific events/purposes. Open green spaces are proven to be beneficial for communities. Having the space to exercise, to walk, to talk with neighbours, to play, to relax, to think - it all leads to happier, healthier and friendly neighbourhoods. They are invaluable resources essential to everyone. I don't want my area to lose this village feel and implore you to NOT build on our open green spaces. I especially implore upon you to leave Jessel Green and Rochford

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Green as they are. They should be protected spaces for us all to enjoy now and long into the future. Thank you for your consideration.