

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

Stakeholder ID	2513	Name	Amanda Stone
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Letter or Email Response:

Dear Sir/Madam , We Do Not Need More People in Loughton I write to raise some points against the intended development of Loughton's green spaces. Quite some years ago a member of the council 'argued' via letters in the local paper with a resident regarding building more housing in this area. Week after week there was a ping pong of letters back and forth until I was so exasperated reading them that I wrote one myself. Oddly enough the councillor did not respond any further. I was strongly on the side of objecting to more housing in the area - and in the years since this incident my views have not changed. Unfortunately many of the points I raised have not been addressed and are even more relevant today. Some years ago those with the powers to authorise these things decided that it would be a great idea to close a secondary school, knock it down and build housing in its place. Why would one do this? "Falling rolls" was quoted. Where was the foresight here? What would be the outcome of building more houses? People would come to live in them. Houses? Who would come to live in these houses? Single people? Unlikely. Couples? Possibly. Families, oh yes - houses for families. Great. Families generally contain children. Couples often decide to become a family and have children. What will children be in need of? Amongst a long list of other facilities they will need schools. And despite objections from local residents who categorically pointed this out, the school was knocked down and houses built. And would you believe that in just a few years there was uproar as we had too few school places available and lo and behold we suddenly had to have a new school built. Let's think about the infrastructure in the local area. For years now it has been impossible to get a GP appointment. For a start you cannot get through to the surgery to request an appointment as the phones are so busy. Today I had a query and waited on the line (after being connected so there is a cost here) for over 15minutes only to have my call disconnected when it was 'my turn'. When people are unwell and need a Dr they need them now, when they are unwell and not in three weeks time! And before any mentions that the Dr's need to review their systems or any other similar comments, this is NOT due to inefficient systems. This is due to the sheer volume of people that now live in this area. The population has more or less doubled in the last 30 years or so and yet facilities have not been expanded nor implemented to support this increase. Indeed, services and facilities have been removed. The A&E service at St Margaret's in Epping was closed and half the hospital site has had dwellings built on it. That was helpful.... So if you want a GP appointment you need to book in way in advance - plan to be unwell, that should help. If you need to be seen at hospital be prepared to wait a few months. If you have a baby make sure you can get yourself to the nearest clinic or to the hospital because you won't get a Midwife out to tend to you anymore - you have to go to them. Don't have your baby in the middle of Winter because you'll be needing to take that precious new-born out in freezing temperatures for post natal checks. Midwives can't waste their time travelling to you, not only do we have less of them due to yet more cuts to services but they have more people to see because the area is overpopulated. Oh and the Police station is closed. Excellent news just before you want to add even more people to

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the area. Have you seen the number of antisocial behaviour orders issued EVERY month? And those are only the ones that are issued - a vast number of antisocial behaviour goes unreported and of those that are reported the majority are not followed up or are just a sharp word until the next time. I've lost count of how many times I have seen someone doing a 'wheelie' along the High Road in Loughton, along Rectory Lane, along Chester Road. The list goes on. Motorbikes are raced up down our streets until all hours along with the constant revving of the engines. And groups of youths hanging around with no respect for anyone or anything - no-one wants to challenge them for fear of reprisals. They are verbally abusive at best, and destructive and physically aggressive at worst. Everywhere you look is evidence of drug taking - drug bags and empty gas canisters discarded in the street. Parents need to watch their toddlers like hawks for fear of them picking any of this up to investigate it, never mind trying to explain what they are and why they're there. Think about knock on effects of more people, where will these extra people work? There are no more jobs to go round, people get depressed when they are out of work and fall in to bad habits when finding other ways to occupy their time/relieve their depression. We cannot move for cars around the stations as it is; more and more people are driving to the area to catch a tube in to London for work. The roads are overcrowded, hazardous due to so many people parking in one area and the surfaces of the roads are an absolute mess. How can anyone justify adding to this problem? Seriously, where will these people park? It is absolutely outrageous to propose building on the station car parks!! This is a ridiculous notion and beyond belief that it should be considered. So please, no more people. The area is struggling to support the population as it is, please do not introduce more and exacerbate the issue - look after the people you already have! Our green spaces are precious, well used and part of our local identity, we are on the brink of losing that identity; please don't be part of that - be a supportive and sympathetic representative of the local people, they're counting on you!Redacted....