

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

Stakeholder ID	1643	Name	Pauline Hatch
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Letter or Email Response:

I am writing to express my grave concern and objection to the plans to build on the Greens here in Debden, Loughton. I moved to Debden in 1980 with my husband and raised a family here. Having previously lived in very built up areas of Birmingham city, Clapham Junction and Poplar in the East End of London we have always considered ourselves very lucky to be living in this area. The open spaces were part of the development plan for this area and contribute to the health and well being of the residents. We often walk to Jessel Green in particular where you can stand at the top of the hill and get a 360 degree view of open space. It's exhilarating and uplifting and one of my favourite places to walk across but we've taken it for granted thinking it will always be there. But now that it's under threat of destruction, it's quite scary! Over the last 36 years we've witnessed many local green spaces lost to building development, such as the football pitch where Swanshope now stands. Hereward Infant school and grounds has a housing development there now. Even the Junior school has lost some of its ground to housing. Then Debden Park school was built on open ground opposite Jessel Drive. The open land by Clays Lane was sold off to become a golf course which although is still green is now inaccessible to the public. There used to be a garden nursery directly situated at the bottom of our property but this too was sold for housing. The list goes on and even our lovely greens which were an asset to the neighbourhood are now full of parked cars. But this latest plan is the last straw. We're being squeezed from every side changing our environment in a detrimental way forever. We must save guard our Greens and our quality of life for the next generation and the generations to come, so that they have somewhere locally where they can experience the sense of freedom that only big open spaces can give you. Many of my neighbours feel the same but have the opinion that they can do nothing about this as it has already been decided. I hope and believe this is not true. But there was much opposition to other developments such as the monstrosity built on the Winston Churchill site but that went through regardless of local opinion. But at least this was a brown site and there are many others in the area. Why can't the old Clinton Card Factory site be considered instead? Housing is needed but it should not be to the detriment of the people already living in this area causing overcrowding and pressure on existing services and the infrastructure. These are already stretched to their limit. All these additional developments will need to use the Central line which is overcrowded now. To get to the station we have to use the bus as the car parks are full but our bus route 167 is under threat of withdrawal. How will they cope with the increased numbers. We have 3 large Primary schools and 2 Secondary schools along Willingale Road which runs parallel to Jessel Green. Children need space and not be hemmed in by buildings. I have heard about the proposed Roding Garden Village project at Wolston Hall in Chigwell. Although I understand it is on Green Belt land, I could support this proposal if it would help alleviate the pressure to build on the precious green spaces of Loughton and Limes farm. Jessel drive is in the heart of our community, the focal point for organised gatherings, picnicking, walking the dog, jogging and walking or simply sitting

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and watching the world go by. It's an oasis of peace and calm where you can get away from the pressures of everyday life. As a special needs teacher for over 20 years I understand the impact our environment can have on our mental health and general well being. The people of Debden have had to endure many decisions to our disadvantage. Please don't strip us of the one great asset we have. I did fill in the official questionnaire but did it have to be so difficult to complete, as it took me several hours , as it kept timing out or was this done for a purpose!