

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

Stakeholder ID	3334	Name	Darren Sheard	Epping Youth Football Club
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Method	Letter
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Date	14/1/2017
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Letter or Email Response:

Epping Youth Football Club c/o -....Redacted.... 9th December 2016 The Planning Policy Team Directorate of Neighbourhoods, Epping Forest District Council, Civic Offices, 323 High Street, Epping, Essex CM16 4BZ Proposed Mixed Use Development at North Weald Park Epping Youth Football Club are extremely supportive of proposals for a comprehensive mixed use development on the North weald Golf Course. We understand that due to a severe decline in membership as a result of a national decline in those playing golf that the course will shut shortly. Instead of a facility becoming derelict and a blight on the area, the proposal will allow for a swift redevelopment of much needed new housing, education facilities, employment space and of course the sporting facilities. Currently the golf club benefits a handful of people but with the redevelopment an opportunity exists for thousands of people to benefit. Furthermore, I believe that using land that has very limited potential to be turned back into agriculture ahead of land that is in food production is both prudent and preferred. Many of the surrounding sites that have been allocated or are being considered for development are currently in agricultural use. This site is understood to be a former tip which has become a golf course, so has not been in agricultural use for a significant period of time. Sequentially this site should be considered for development purposes ahead of land which is currently in productive farming use. As with any development, I believe there will be detractors but looking at a scheme as whole it is clear that the content provides a much greater value than any others in the area currently being promoted. We cannot have housing estates with no employment space, we cannot have housing estates that pay lip service to sports provision and open space. We need cohesive thinking and in my opinion North Weald Park is a development we can look at as an exemplar from a developer who has a track record for delivering mixed use schemes like this. I would welcome an opportunity to discuss further if the council felt it appropriate. Yours faithfully, Darren Sheard- Vice-Secretary Email:Redacted....

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