

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

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Method Email

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Letter or Email Response:

I wish to add my voice in disbelief at the proposed destruction of open spaces in the Loughton and Debden area. As I am sure you are aware the open spaces that are under threat for development were originally put in place by people with vision to provide recreation space and to support the well-being of residents. These spaces were not 'put aside' for a rainy day for the benefit of property developers who wish to capitalise on the Council's weaknesses in supporting sustainability or your lack of protection for the environment by eliminating green space. Before writing this email I had just visited what is known colloquially as Debden Estate and I thought what a pleasant environment this is to live in and how lucky we are in this part of Essex to have such well thought out planning by those who have preceded us. Their legacy is something to be proud of. Are we really going to throw all this away to the detriment of future generations? We all know that the Loughton area has become much more urbanised over the years. I have had the privilege to live in the area since 1972 and since that time I have witnessed many developments which has now resulted in an abundance of property available for those who wish to come to the area or those who wish to remain local. One brief look at any property website with an IG10 search will quickly throw up many properties available for purchase or for rent and for all sizes of pockets. If it is the case that further development is required for residential purposes, then I must question the wisdom of allowing the development of a new retail park on Langston Road which could be a perfect brownfield site for residential purposes rather than destroying playing fields and recreation grounds for this purpose. One final point on the use of station car-parks and Traps Hill car-park for further development. I wonder if the implications of this has been thought through? Anyone who has tried to find a parking space either for work purposes or for shopping will know that parking (and traffic too) is at breaking-point and any further lack of parking and increase in road users will be an unworkable equation.

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