

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

Stakeholder ID	4313	Name	colin	newlyn
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Date	11/12/2016
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Letter or Email Response:

I wish to express my opposition to the proposals to build on the precious green spaces in Loughton. Loughton has grown since we moved here just over twenty years ago but it has retained its open and leafy environment and is recognisably the pleasant town that it we wanted to live in. The proposals to build on much of the open space will destroy the feel of the town and make it a much more urban environment. Its unique feeling is precisely because it is not like the contiguous development that is found from further in towards London. There are also very many practical issues with the proposed developments. The loss of vital recreational space at a time when the town's population is growing seems foolhardy and short-sighted, and is neglectful of the well-being and health of the residents. These spaces are very important to the health of the town itself and the proper functioning of the community. They provide space for people to come together, whether that is through children playing or people walking dogs, or more organised activities such as team games and community events. There are not alternatives ready at hand, as other sites are inappropriate and there is little access to the green belt land that surrounds the town. The proposal to build over the car parks is also short-sighted and will severely damage the character of the town. Simply providing for the same number of parking spaces is not going to be enough as the new properties themselves will require additional parking. What of the other infrastructure and amenities that will be required to support this growth in residents? How can it make sense to reduce what is available whilst expanding the population? The Central Line is already running at over-capacity and is a more obvious example of the problems that will ensue if these developments proceed. I understand the need to provide more housing but there is a limit to what Loughton can accommodate within its boundaries, whilst remaining an attractive place to live. I would want existing brownfield sites to be used instead of our precious open spaces. We are uniquely constrained by the Green Belt limitations and that should be given account in the demands being placed upon the town. A separate new town development, with appropriate levels of infrastructure and amenities included, should be the way forward, rather than this ill-considered destruction of the very open spaces that give Loughton its unique character.

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