

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

Stakeholder ID	1372	Name	Richard and Sue Mason
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Method	Letter
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Date	21/11/2016
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Letter or Email Response:

Dear Sirs, RE: Jessel Green - proposed development Along with many other letters of complaint you are receiving on this matter we are writing, as residents of Goldingham Avenue for over 30 years, to provide our perspective on the proposal to build flats on the Jessel Green site. We have, during the years we have lived here, always enjoyed using this space for various activities such as dog walking, playing with children both local and of family/friends when they come and visit, picnics, bike riding, sledging when it snows, flying kites and joining in the council-run community events. We find it hard to understand why the Council, who have been investing in and using this site over many years, are now prepared to lose a very valuable site. This space is very precious and special to everyone who lives in this area. Apart from this new development being an eyesore, where are we going to let children run around and play safely if this space is developed? There is constant local and national press coverage extolling the virtues of exercise for people of all ages - how can we (as a community with the support of our council) aim to discourage young people from inactivity indoors, in front of computers and TV, if you are simultaneously removing this area to safely exercise and kick around a ball in the fresh air. Local schools (especially for smaller children) regularly use the field for organised play sessions as it is safe to do so. We have always thought this open green space was included in the original planning of the area to promote the health and wellbeing of its residents. A further question arises - where are all these new residents going to park their cars? with the current volume of residents and vehicle space is already insufficient. Adding new residents with further vehicles does little to resolve this - on the contrary, even if we assume there is one car per household (noting that, even now, many households have 2+ cars) this only adds to the aforementioned problem. If there are three blocks of flats, how many new cars will this add to the equation? As far as we are aware, councils invest (from their budgets) in the aesthetics of local areas (for happiness of current residents, 'resale value' and appeal for future potential residents etc)- if there has to be a car park added to the development for additional vehicles then that's not a solution; it becomes an eyesore with an appendage. On a slightly different use of the field - over the past few years (and twice in the last month) there have been air ambulances landing on the field (as there is no space on any of the roads in the vicinity) to deal with casualties who were not safe to send to A & E by ambulance (nearest A&E hospitals being either 8 miles away). Where would they have managed to land without this space? Are people's lives to be put at risk? Also, we are already suffering from a shortage of doctors and dentists in this area - where would we fit all these new people into the already over-stretched NHS Facilities. The same applies to schools in the area. Please do reconsider taking our field away from us for a building development. Yours Faithfully,

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