



27th January 2018

The Planning Policy Team  
Directorate of Neighbourhoods  
Epping Forest District Council  
Civic Offices  
323 High Street  
Epping  
Essex CM16 4BZ

#### **Representation on Submission Version of Epping Forest District Local Plan**

With regard to the Epping Forest District Local Plan firstly I understand and support that there must be growth in the town, however, I would like to register my concerns and issues that I have with the plan and this submission is being made by myself as a resident of Epping.

There are several areas of the plan that are of concern and I have detailed under the following headings:

Site Reference EPP.R5 Epping Sports Centre

Infrastructure:


Highways


Car Parking

Doctors

#### **Site Reference EPP.R5 (Epping Sports Centre)**

I do not consider that this part of the Submission Version of the local plan is legally compliant or sound for the following reasons: The council has not complied with its' Statement of Community Involvement. In particular paragraphs 3, 5b and 13 have not been complied with. The members and user groups (gymnastics, karate, badminton, squash) of Epping Sports Centre should have been considered a Stakeholder Group and as such should have been invited to participate in workshops and to a consultation regarding the future of Epping Sports Centre. However there has been no direct consultation with Epping Sports Centre members and in fact no information of any kind (leaflets, posters, mail shots etc) has been made available in Epping Sports Centre despite it being a council owned building. The proposal to build 43 homes on the existing site of Epping Sports Centre has not been publicised within the Sports Centre at all.

This submission regarding the Sports Centre has been made by our representative  who has submitted paper and e-petitions on behalf of the Epping community, details are:



## **Infrastructure**

### ***Highways***

Large housing development on the edge of the town outside walking distance with no frequent bus service will mean that car travel will be essential to centre of the town which will increase already a congested high street and will require more town centre parking.

Coupled with the proposal to re-site the Epping Sports Centre to North Weald will increase the traffic congestion. In October 2016, 14,500 visits were made to Epping Sports Centre (source - Everyone Active). Using this as a reference, if these visits were made by car, it would be an additional 29,000 car journeys per month within Epping. Therefore our petition to Epping Forest District Council is to retain a Sports Centre, not necessarily on the existing site but within the boundary of Epping Town so that it remains accessible by foot.

### ***Car Parking***

The scale of these proposed developments of flats above car parks could significantly alter the feel of our Market Town. It is not proposed to increase the number of shopper parking places. The closure of the EFDC staff car park following its development into flats might give rise to additional competition for the few parking places and further undermine the shops and the historic market.

In addition with the additional housing south of Epping and North Weald development will increase the traffic into the town for shopping and commuting on the central line into London for work, this will impact parking in local roads we already in Oak Road suffer from commuter parking and creates dangerous parking e.g. bend on the corner of Crows Road / Oak Road.

### ***Doctors***

Currently the capacity at the Limes Medical Centre already causes an issue with obtaining appointments, in September I had to wait 5 weeks for an appointment, without the increase of facilities this will only get worse.

I wish to be notified when the Epping Forest District Local Plan is submitted for independent examination and happy to participate along with Mary Mott to participate at the hearings as we consider the retention of a Sports Centre within the boundary of Epping Town to be critical to the health and well being of the community.

Yours sincerely

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