

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

Stakeholder ID	4184	Name	J & P Thompson
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Letter or Email Response:

Our views are for the areas of Epping, Loughton, Buckhurst Hill and Chigwell of which we have detailed knowledge, having lived in the area for over 70 years. Our views are not of nimbyism but of our practical day to day living. Before any additional housing is considered the already deteriorating infrastructure needs to be addressed: Roads All existing roads, apart from their general poor condition and very poor response times to even fix potholes, are heavily congested. Additional traffic created by increasing homes will only worsen the problem. All of the sites chosen within the plan and in particular the station car parks are already at a standstill during the school run and home-coming commuter traffic. Transport The Central Line is already a very uncomfortable journey if you have to travel in the extended rush hours. TfL already appear to have decreased the number of trains which run toward Loughton /Epping and it not unusual to have to wait for a number of trains to pass just to get on board. Buses are equally busy especially around school times and there is the constant doubt that the services are going to be terminated or routes changed due to subsidy cuts. Car parking is also a problem; the demand from commuters from outside the district already clog up the roads during the week. Parents who take their children to school by car clog up the areas around the schools during the week. Schools/Nurseries There are already insufficient school/nursery places in the local area which would only become worse with extra homes being built. Health At present if you call an ambulance you may have to wait for one from Chelmsford or one from other outer area providers. Hospital appointments or having tests undertaken can take months due to the existing demand; increasing the local population will make waiting times even longer. In addition just trying to see a GP or dentist when required can take days and sometimes weeks. The Sites Building over any car park is going to exacerbate an already severe problem by adding more cars and probably reducing the current available car spaces, the station car parks in particular. At the weekend the Library car park is generally full as shoppers, library users, church users and health centre users vie for parking places. When Debden was built the green space provided was considered necessary for the well-being of the residents. That premise still holds good today and with modern day stress is even more important for families to have this facility. The largest site, Borders Lane mentions 304 dwellings which in reality could mean over 1000 people and 500 cars all on an infrastructure that cannot cope. For the Middle Site it would be far better to build medical and school facilities as was intended for this site. The top end of Oakwood Hill towards Debden, which historically was occupied by prefabricated homes for many years, could be considered for housing. This site would be near to all of the already over-stretched services.Redacted....

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