

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

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| Stakeholder ID | 4466 | Name | roxanne hadfield |
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| Date | 12/12/2016 |
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### Letter or Email Response:

I strongly oppose your ideas to build on most green spaces across Loughton & Debden, I urge you to rethink the idea of urban intensification of the Loughton/Debden area. Brief points of relevance for consideration • A Garden city is the way forward in my view and would be supported by nearly all residents, whether it would be through buying farming land in Harlow, or using sites such as Woolsten Manor. Sites that do not already intensely benefit large parts of the community • Taking away community green spaces will have the potential to adversely damage the morale as well as mental and physical wellbeing of residents across your district. Especially those in Debden and Loughton which are already the most densely populated parts • The bog at the bottom of Jessel Green is a well-known area for water retention - I assume this water will end up somewhere if it is concreted over • It would be a seriously dangerous PR exercise to remove so many proposed green spaces which would irretrievably harm the national reputation of Epping Forest District council • We struggle with the infrastructure we already have, so putting more strain on this with several thousand more residents over the next twenty years will undoubtedly bring more money for growth of that infrastructure. However, that money does not create spaces for building schools and other amenities to house that infrastructure? Has this been taken into consideration? At what point do we say we are at capacity? When do you as our district council say 'there is no more room'? Perhaps this will not happen until the Theydon Green is being considered for development. The Campaign to save our green I ask you to put yourself into the current resident's shoes. I urge you to put a higher value on the green spaces across Debden and Loughton than you are at present. If you build on them, you are underestimating their value. Jessel Green is a beauty spot. But it is so much more when you consider what it means to the people. The campaign to save it has really only just begun. But to achieve 2000 followers of the Save Jessel Green Facebook page in such a short space of time has to be unprecedented. This campaign has taught me to never underestimate the power of community spirit. I have seen it with my own eyes and each day I am more amazed by the volume of knocks on my door, the people who stop me in the street to discuss the campaign and the emails and telephone calls I have been receiving - all from complete strangers before this campaign began! I was told ...Redacted... that the number of people that object to building on a space will not make a difference to whether it is built on or not. This left me feeling cold and hopeless. To think that EFDC would willingly choose to ignore so many of its residents - NOT TOO MENTION ITS TOWN COUNCILLORS. I think it would be a grave betrayal of your constituents to not listen to this volume of replies from the people that you represent. What does Jessel Green mean to me personally? I use this space several times per week to get fresh air with my three children. I don't always have lots of money to pay for parking or petrol to go further afield. Also, it's hard to walk distances to places with small children as anyone with children will know. When you lead a busy life - a green space is true solace. In fact, living with Jessel Green so closely has probably saved me from a mental breakdown when I had three children under the age of two. Community

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events were held through the local children's centre on that green. They were a stones throw away from my front door - they were free and were out doors with the skies and fresh air. You cannot put a value on that. I am sure so many other mums at these events would tell nearly the exact same tale. I take a blanket and picnic in the summer. The children can run around, kick a ball and all safely because it is a large enough area that we can feel safe from the roads. There are no other places like that. The highlight of our year is the Jessel Green fun day, we just love it. It's affordable and close and above all so much fun. We fly kites there, we go to the EFDC 'play in the park' events throughout the summer and we enjoy walks over the field to the park on the hill. My partner and I jog around the field too because it is soft ground. I could go on, but I think you get the gist. These public spaces make Debden a truly special place to live. They give it character and they breath the life into the soul of Debden. If you take them away, you take away the essence of the estate, you adversely alter the feeling of it. So much of the estate has changed since the 1950's blueprint and rightly so. Lifestyles alter and we do need more housing, which is why there has been so much building across the estate since the 1950's. These spaces were seen as important when it was first built - with so much more development on the estate, they are even more important now. Particularly in light of the rise of childhood obesity, mental health issues and pollution related health conditions. Could EFDC make a stand in the fight against these and choose to save our green spaces?....or will you choose to carve them up like unwanted carcasses? My parting thought is that I am deeply disappointed that you only gave residents 6 weeks to respond to a plan that took you a minimum of 2 years to write (although I understand that it has been worked on for eight years). I have made a formal complaint about this timescale.

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