

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

Stakeholder ID	4413	Name	Bob & Judy Jennings
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Date	10/12/2016
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Letter or Email Response:

The Draft Local Plan includes proposals to build a total of 248 new homes on the Colebrook Lane / Jessel Drive Amenity Open Space and the Sandford Avenue / Westall Road Amenity Open Space, known locally as Jessel Green and Rochford Green respectively. We would however draw your attention to report published in September 2014 by Public Health England in association with University College London, entitled Improving Access to Green Spaces. The report's summary concludes: "1. There is significant and growing evidence of the physical and mental health benefits of green spaces - research shows that access to green space is associated with better health outcomes, and that income-related inequality in health is less pronounced where people have access to green space; 2. Access to good quality green space is associated with a range of positive outcomes including better self-rated health; lower body mass index scores, overweight and obesity levels; improved mental health and wellbeing, and increased longevity in older people; 3. Access to green space is not equal across the population of England - people living in the most deprived areas are less likely to live in the greenest areas and will therefore have less opportunities to gain the health benefits of green space compared with people living in the least deprived areas; 4. Increasing the use of good quality green space for all social groups is likely to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities - it can also bring other benefits such as greater community cohesion and reduced social isolation; and 5. Local authorities play a vital role in protecting, maintaining and improving local green spaces." Jessel Green and Rochford Green are either wholly within or immediately adjacent to the ward of Loughton Broadway, which the Office for National Statistics recognises as the most deprived ward in the district of Epping Forest. Importantly both greens currently provide the residents of Loughton Broadway with the opportunities identified by Public Health England to improve their health and wellbeing. Given the continuing strains on the National Health Service, it is more important than ever that these two green spaces are protected for future generations. We therefore ask that the proposal to build on both these green spaces be removed from the Draft Local Plan, in order to preserve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of residents living in the District's most deprived ward. Councillor Bob Jennings - ...Redacted...- Epping Forest District Council, and Councillor Judy Jennings - ...Redacted...- Epping Forest District Council

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