Local Plan Team, Epping Forest District Council, Civic Offices, 323, High Street, Epping, CM166 4BZ.

3rd May, 2018

Epping Forest District Council - Local Plan Appendix B

I am writing as Chairman of Epping Sports Club, located at Lower Bury Lane in Epping. We are a local and active community group with a genuine interest in the Local Plan. Epping Sports Club, located to the east of Bury Lane, and an area to the west of Bury Lane was previously allocated for a linked development in the Regulation 18 Version of the Epping Local Plan (SR-0113B). We were supportive of the allocation, however to our surprise and disappointment the allocation was removed from the Submission Version of the Local Plan. After seeking advice we would like to point out the following,

Appendix B has now been published and there is reference to the, "significant number of responses received through the consultation indicated that the site was less preferred by the local community."

However there is no published evidence base behind this to support this statement. We would like to request that redacted copies of these responses are made available to us. Without this information it is impossible for us to understand what these objections were.

We would also be keen to understand what "less preferred" means as this seems to imply a comparison with other sites, and we would like further information on this process and the other sites we were assessed against.

Additionally there is reference to "further evaluation" however there is no explanation as to what the evaluation entailed or what tests were undertaken. We believe that EFDC should provide further detailed information on the specific reasons for why the site was removed from the submission version of the Local Plan.

In correspondence with EFDC Officers reference has been made to the site not being included in the Epping Neighbourhood Plan, but unfortunately we have never been consulted on the Neighbourhood Plan or involved in the process.

We are also not aware that a draft of the Epping Town Neighbourhood Plan has actually been drafted or issued for consultation at this stage. All that is available online is a copy of the findings from the draft questionnaire.

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John Brades, Chairman ~

Clearly there is still a lot of information that has yet to be published in order to help us understand why the allocation was removed. We would like to see this information made publicly available. As we have previously expressed we wish to be actively engaged in the Local Plan process, including speaking at the hearings during the Examination in Public.

We look forward to receiving a reply from your team on these matters.

Yours faithfully,

