

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

Stakeholder ID	1686	Name	Elaine Hobbs
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Letter or Email Response:

I have lived in Loughton for over twenty years; sixteen of which at my current address. I wish to register my disapproval of the Draft Local Plan in terms of the plans for building on the open green spaces we currently enjoy, namely Jessel Green and Rochford Green. These greens are vital to the community for many reasons. They are of benefit to children, dog-walkers, schools, nurseries, those wishing to exercise or simply those who need a place to sit and reflect. The green spaces were included in the planning of Debden Estate for the purpose of creating a sense of space and freedom to those moving away from the built-up inner London areas post-World War Two. Surely, they are no less vital to the community in this present day; perhaps even more so. A few years back, Jessel Green applied for "village green" status. I am dismayed that the decision on this has been put on hold and, in the meantime, the Council are now thinking of building on it instead. Besides taking away the green spaces which are used and loved so much by so many people, how do you propose to deal with the extra burden on services which will certainly happen with the proposed amount of homes you wish to provide in the Debden area? My daughter until recently attended Hereward Primary School, which had to be extended a few years ago to cope with the numbers of children attending. It is now full to capacity and I have no doubt that St John Fisher and Thomas Willingale schools are also in the same situation. I know first-hand that Debden Park High School has a limit per year of 180 new pupils, yet this year alone, it received over 600 applications. Where do you propose the new inhabitants of the housing you plan for these greens educate their children? And how about the local GP surgeries, which are over-subscribed and under strain as it is? We currently have a three-and-a-half week's wait to see our GP. THREE-AND-A-HALF WEEKS. How is this situation going to improve for anyone with more people registering at the local surgeries. Transport is already a nightmare for Loughton. Having once been a commuter myself, I am well aware that it is virtually impossible to get a seat on a carriage at Debden Tube Station as early as 7.30 am weekdays. And as for journeys home, the term "cattle class" could not be more appropriate, with on average only one tube out of every four being destined for Epping, making for dangerously-full carriages. The 167 bus, which was a busy, well-used service and yet it is now being cut. Which in turn will mean increased numbers using the other bus services available. As for driving, the roads are practically at a standstill weekday mornings with people driving to work or school. It takes me 20 to 30 minutes to get from my house to the M11 slip road in the mornings (and this is BEFORE the roadworks started in line with the opening of the new Retail Park. Nowadays I have to add an extra 45 to 50 minutes to my journey due to the traffic standstill between my house and Chigwell Lane). Debden Estate was built with not much provision for car parking, due to the era. Over time, of course, many more people own cars and, because of lack of garages, people park on the roads. This is one of the reasons for the traffic congestion in rush-hour. How do you propose to deal with the increased traffic congestion caused by extra motorists living in Debden and how do you propose to deal with parking issues, seeing as for most roads in Debden

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these days, parking is at a premium already? I cannot understand why you have not adopted the "garden village" approach, as has proved successful in other areas of Essex. I have been told that there is suitable ex-farmland on the outskirts of Harlow which would be fit for this purpose. And I understand there is a possibility of land at Woolston Manor being available? Surely creating a garden village and providing all the infrastructure services within that has to be a better solution? I have spoken to so many people on the subject of the Draft Local Plan and, sadly, many believe that the Council will go ahead and do what they want to do, regardless of residents' opinions. This has been based largely on the situation a couple of years ago when the Winston Churchill was demolished to make way for Broadway Gate, despite protests from the local community. You have claimed the Draft Local Plan to be a "public consultation" - please make it so, listen to the residents of Debden and do the right thing this time.