

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

Stakeholder ID	4222	Name	Laura Anderson
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Letter or Email Response:

I am writing to express my objection to the proposed plans to develop Jessel Green, Rochford Green, Lucton's Field and other similar spaces throughout Loughton for housing. I moved to Debden from Redbridge last December after a year of searching for a suitable property within our budget. One of the main reasons we're thankful we bought here as opposed to other areas such as Manor Park, Forest Gate etc is the amount of green space available to enjoy. In a time when the toxicity of London air and associated health risks is in the news regularly, the conservation of urban green space should surely be high on everyone's agenda? The green spaces are the lungs of the area - places for people to enjoy, walk their dogs, exercise, take their children to play.....assets that need protecting under all circumstances! While I agree shortage of housing is a problem in the London area, I do not believe building over precious green space is the solution. People don't just need homes or to be crammed into as many rabbit hutch style properties as possible - outdoor space and quality of life are SO important to general well being. By building these homes, the council are ruining our - the existing residents - and any new comers to the area - a quality of life. I don't want to live in an overcrowded, dirty, bland part of town - sorry. I don't think anyone else does either so destroying one of Loughton's main USP's is insane. I was drawn to a statistic on the Epping Forest District Council twitter page stating that 410 properties in the area have been empty for 6 months - shouldn't the priority be to bring these into use or waiting for alternative sites from private landlords to become available before causing irreparable damage? When we bought our flatRedacted.... this time last year, one of the points that came up on the environmental searches was the risk of flooding and we were shown a map of potential problem areas. I'm very concerned that despite these very apparent risks, these plans are still being considered?! Flooding and extreme weather as a result of climate change is becoming the norm rather than the exception and it seems shortsighted to potentially exacerbate the problem in an area with a clear, identified risk! I work in Central London - Marylebone - and use the Central Line to get to work. Already the train is overcrowded and despite being the third stop from the end of the line, getting a seat is unlikely and the crush in peak times can be unbearable. I also used to work in Walthamstow and relied heavily on the 20 bus for my commute. More often than not, the bus was late, cancelled or terminated early and the traffic so appalling that on one occasion, my journey from Debden to the top of Forest Road actually took over 2 hours. Increasing the population of an area whose infrastructure already seems inadequate therefore seems ludicrous to me. I implore you to reconsider these plans and to save our green spaces. I have seen many developments go up around Waltham Forest and Redbridge in recent years - all of them eyesores, poor quality, quick fix knee jerk builds with making as much money as possible the key objective. Promises from the developers for increased facilities etc are often broken, much to the annoyance of local residents who quite rightly feel deceived. I don't have any confidence in the integrity of this proposed development either and definitely not enough to even consider sacrificing Loughton's green space for it. Please do not ruin Debden!

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