

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

Stakeholder ID	2970	Name	Jean Richards	Gill Mildon	Waltham Abbey Community Association
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Method	Survey
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Date

This document has been created using information from the Council's database of responses to the Draft Local Plan Consultation 2016. Some elements of the full response such as formatting and images may not appear accurately. Should you wish to review the original response, please contact the Planning Policy team: ldfconsult@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Survey Response:

1. Do you agree with the overall vision that the Draft Plan sets out for Epping Forest District?

Agree

Please explain your choice in Question 1:

Waltham Abbey Community Association agree with this, but have concerns about the infrastructure. The plans for roads, policing, hospitals, schools, drs, nurseries and elderly care has not been released yet , not even in draft form. We feel that even with promises on this that the basic infrastructure wont materialise once the housing has been built. Extending the existing shopping areas may not work as existing shops and businesses struggle to compete with out of town retailers and online businesses. Parking and road congestion continue to be a huge problem in our area especially if there are problems on the M11 or M25.

2. Do you agree with the overall vision that the Draft Plan sets out for Epping Forest District?

Agree

Please explain your choice in Question 2:

Waltham Abbey Community Association mainly agree with this, but feel strongly that local areas and those like us who are directly affected, should have been consulted BEFORE the draft plan was written. We are a small local site that is totally unsuitable for redevelopment as we have an existing active community building on site. We have 500+ users of the Community Centre each week, a Day Centre for the elderly and a nursery / preschool. We weren't consulted at all.

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3. Do you agree with the proposals for development around Harlow?

Agree

Please explain your choice in Question 3:

Waltham Abbey Community Association agree with this IF the community, educational, open space, transport, hospital and healthcare provision are adequately provided. One prime example is Princess Alexandra hospital which is graded inadequate and cannot cope with the population it currently serves.

4. Do you agree with the proposed shopping area in...

Epping?

No opinion

Buckhurst Hill?

No opinion

Loughton Broadway?

No opinion

Chipping Ongar?

No opinion

Loughton High Road?

No opinion

Waltham Abbey?

No

Please explain your choice in Question 4:

Waltham Abbey Community Association feel that this will be hard to achieve because existing retail units struggle to compete against out of town retail areas and online shopping. We already have empty shops and a glut of charity and coffee shops, hairdressers and beauty salons across the area.

5. Do you agree with the proposals for new employment development?

Agree

Please explain your choice in Question 5:

Waltham Abbey Community Association agree with the need to extend and expand employment opportunities and create apprenticeships but feel it may be difficult to achieve in the current climate. Building on our site would actually mean the loss of 6 jobs and numerous volunteering posts and hardly makes the best of us as an existing employment site.

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6. Do you agree with the proposed sites in your area?

Epping (Draft Policy P 1):

No opinion

Please provide reasons for your view on Epping:

Loughton (Draft Policy P 2)

No opinion

Please provide reasons for your view on Loughton:

Waltham Abbey (Draft Policy P 3)

No

Please provide reasons for your view on Waltham Abbey:

Waltham Abbey Community Association have grave concerns about the development of the land that Waltham Abbey Community Centre Saxon Way stands on. Waltham Abbey Community Association is a charity who have successfully run Waltham Abbey Community Centre since 1949. The Community Centre is a much used and successfully run local facility. We have over 500 users of the centre every week, numerous volunteers, 6 paid employees, not to mention an over subscribed preschool, a Day Centre for the elderly and socially isolated vulnerable residents of Waltham Abbey. We are also the hub of many local group activities and businesses. We are also used by Epping Forest District Council as a polling station. We have a solid 15 year lease on the building and yet no one has consulted us at all. Simply being on the plan is affecting our business because people are presuming and spreading gossip that we are being knocked down. Central to the draft local plan is to "Conserve community buildings and assets" This plan for Waltham Abbey Community Centre goes against the ideals set out in the local plan, which also states that it will "work to protect and make best use of existing employment sites" and "enhance the quality of life for local people" This proposal will take away a much used asset to the local community with no plans to replace it or consider its existing use. This community building which is so central and well used must be preserved. Losing a community building like this would result in the loss of a Day Centre, a preschool, many local businesses and social groups and a much needed hub of the community. There is no other Community Centre in the town, nor are there any other Day

Centres. Waltham Abbey Community Association urge you to reconsider this aspect of the draft local plan and consult with us on the future of this site.

Chipping Ongar (Draft Policy P 4)

No opinion

Please provide reasons for your view on Chipping Ongar:

Buckhurst Hill (Draft Policy P 5)

No opinion

Please provide reasons for your view on Buckhurst Hill:

North Weald Bassett (Draft Policy P 6)

No opinion

Please provide reasons for your view on North Weald Bassett:

Chigwell (Draft Policy P 7)

No opinion

Please provide reasons for your view on North Weald Bassett:

Theydon Bois (Draft Policy P 8)

No opinion

Please provide reasons for your view on Theydon Bois:

Roydon (Draft Policy P 9)

No opinion

Please provide reasons for your view on Roydon:

Nazeing (Draft Policy P 10)

No opinion

Please provide reasons for your view on Nazeing:

Thornwood (Draft Policy P 11)

No opinion

Please provide reasons for your view on Thornwood:

Coopersale, Fyfield, High Ongar, Lower Sheering, Moreton, Sewardstonbury, Sheering, Stapleford Abbots (Draft Policy P 12)

No opinion

Please provide reasons for your view on Coopersale, Fyfield, High Ongar, Lower Sheering, Moreton, Sewardstonbury, Sheering, Stapleford Abbots:

7. Do you agree with the approach to infrastructure provision being proposed in the plan?

Disagree

Please explain your choice in Question 7:

Waltham Abbey Community Association disagrees with this because as yet no plan for infrastructure has been released and cannot in any way be guaranteed by the council. Our schools are full, and if the plans go ahead

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to develop on Community Centre land a nursery/preschool will be lost. Our hospital is graded inadequate and cannot cope with the existing population. The districts roads are busy and dangerous rural roads that come to a standstill and gridlock towns as soon as there is a problem on the M11 or M25. Waltham Abbey Community Association believes the infrastructure should be in place or at the very least guaranteed in some way BEFORE the housing plan is put in place. However the draft plan for infrastructure hasn't even been released yet.

8. An Interim Sustainability Appraisal has been commissioned to support the Draft Local Plan. We would welcome any comments you may have on this.

Waltham Abbey Community Association believe this plan is only sustainable if the infrastructure is sound. As no plan for infrastructure has been released yet , we cannot know if it will be sustainable. At the present time with the infrastructure we have now, the plan wont be sustainable. Our bus services are being cut, not improved, our roads are inadequate and poorly maintained. Our area has and does suffer from flooding. Our water and sewage mains are Victorian and already struggle to cope.

9. Do you wish to comment on any other policies in the Draft Local Plan?