

23rd January 2018

To: Independent EFD Local Plan Inspector

Dear Sir,

Site LOU.R5

I am writing to tell you the reasons I think putting housing on Jessel Green, is a bad, unstable and antisocial idea.

I have lived in Loughton for nearly 30 years. We chose Loughton for its green and open spaces. My parents lived in Loughton after the war, my mum remembers Jessel Green when it was a corn field. I think the planners of the Debden Estate did a good job of leaving many green spaces and big old trees for the welfare of the people moving in.

I used to walk over Jessel Green to see friends quite often. I would still do this if I was able to, but at the moment I can't due to health issues. I hope to do so again in the future when I am better. My disability at the moment has made me quite depressed at times, not being able to do what I love best, but at least when I drive past Jessel Green I can remember good times and hopefully look forward to better times again in the future. We used to meet with friends on the top of the hill, and when our children were small we would take them there in the snow, and in the summer they would play in the playground. Perhaps one day we will have grandchildren, and our friends will have grandchildren. Where will they play?

Even 150 houses would spoil the green but by the look of the only public picture it seems to look more like the size of the Oakwood Hill Estate, with maybe about 20% of the site remaining. And from there the tall buildings will obscure the view! This is not what was proposed at the meeting in December. At the meeting they said they needed to push it through now and if it wasn't agreed that day, then they would take it into their own hands and give us even more houses, seemingly as a punishment for not agreeing with them. They said it was impossible for us to protest and for them to reconsider, because of deadlines - they knew this in advance of the date set for the meeting, so they screwed us good and proper! I felt they blackmailed us and deliberately made the date of the meeting so that Christmas would interfere. I don't see why they can't get on with building houses that haven't been protested against, and give time to reconsider this very important, vital green. Redrow is promoting a site in Theydon Bois which is an ideal alternative location for homes in Epping Forest. The land proposed is currently inaccessible private land, not much-loved community space. They will open the site up, reserving and enhancing the green spaces in the area and connect the public rights of way. It is a sustainable development with dedicated green space for all, as well as green infrastructure corridors and woodland buffers. Theydon Bois has a massive green and a smaller population than Loughton and doesn't have 5 schools in the space of a square mile.

And what about the infrastructure in the Jessel Green area - Davenant School at one end, Willingale at the other, Debden Park in the middle, and John Fisher and Hereward schools very close by. The traffic is bad enough as it is, with all these extra houses there will be more, and there will also be a shortage of places for schools unless they are thinking of building another one! Plus, I have to wait 3 weeks to see my GP. The only way you can get an appointment is to call at 8am, but you have to wait in a queue for half an hour and if it doesn't get answered within that time you get cut off! And if you go and queue up at the GP surgery, all the appointments are gone anyway.

For the past three years I have been involved with helping at the Jessel Green fun day, and enjoyed seeing people of all ages come together and connect with each other and have lots of fun. What a shame it would be if this could never happen again. I heard that the fun day for this year has not yet been confirmed.

Many people use Jessel Green to walk their dogs throughout the day, and I have friends who love going to the green, friends with children who have favourite trees to climb and friends to meet. Even if people don't walk on Jessel Green, the look of it from the car or bus or pavement brings a smile to people's faces on a sunny day, or a snowy day. Recently after the December snow, I saw

countless melting snowmen. A sad scene after the happiness that many children would have had, and it may never happen again.

I think that green spaces are essential to the wellbeing of everyone, and especially in area where many families struggle to make ends meet. At least if you don't get to go on holiday you can go and knock for a friend and have somewhere to go, instead of being indoors all the time. We need to make more of the space we have rather than obliterate it with supposedly affordable housing, which I believe is a lie.

Thank you for reading and please consider the residents of this highly populated area.
Sue Tilbey