

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

Stakeholder ID 4765 Name Jean Richards

Method Survey

Date

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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:

I agree but I am concerned that no infrastructure plans seem to have been mentioned yet (for Waltham Abbey in particular). Nothing seems to have been said about schools, doctors, policing, hospitals, nurseries and elderly care, roads, transport links and parking. Also measures put in to avoid flooding. With the Meridian Park development in Waltham Abbey these were promised but never materialised. Its vital to help the local shops against out of town retail parks and also vital to protect the Green Belt.

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:

In general I agree but feel some of the smaller sites which are recently used for other local needs are not suitable and some consultation beforehand would have helped. In particular I am thinking of Waltham Abbey Community Centre in Saxon Way. This is a well used and essential facility. The news that it is being demolished for housing has caused a lot of distress. Also Waltham Abbey Fire Station. Its proximity to the M25 makes it an essential service in the event of an incident on the motorway.

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

Agree

Please explain your choice in Question 3:

Agree as long as all the provisions with the housing is delivered.

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

Epping?

Buckhurst Hill?

Loughton Broadway?

Chipping Ongar?

Loughton High Road?

Waltham Abbey?

Yes

Please explain your choice in Question 4:

In Waltham Abbey, as well as in other parts of the district, there are always many empty shops. The open but often they soon close. In Waltham Abbey we have many cafes, restaurants and other eating outlets and I think to an extent the "cafe culture" has succeeded but we desperately need a wide range of other shops that are sustainable. More help from the council with rates etc and adequate free parking to encourage people to come to the town is needed.

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

Strongly agree

Please explain your choice in Question 5:

I strongly agree with this. It is vital (particularly after Brexit regardless of how you voted) that we work together to make it work by providing more employment opportunities, apprenticeships and help existing businesses and new businesses.

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

Epping (Draft Policy P 1):

Please provide reasons for your view on Epping:

Loughton (Draft Policy P 2)

Please provide reasons for your view on Loughton:

Waltham Abbey (Draft Policy P 3)

No

Please provide reasons for your view on Waltham Abbey:

While I appreciate the need for extra housing within Waltham Abbey and agree with some of the sites proposed, I am amazed that the community centre at Saxon Way has been chosen for 50+ houses to be built on it. This community centre is the only one in Waltham Abbey and in the draft local plan and emphasised by councillors it has been stated that community and leisure facilities would be protected. Waltham Abbey community centre is used by over 500 people each week. It has a day centre for vulnerable, isolated, elderly people (3 days per week), a preschool (5 days a week), a large number of group activities held weekly. It is used by businesses, local people for functions and also employs several people. This proposal would take away a much used and needed facility of the local community. Finally Waltham Abbey Community Centre still has 17 years of lease left. Any redevelopment must ensure continuity of use for the community centre. Waltham Abbey already has large housing estates and we do not need or have room for any more large developments. The Crooked Mile proposal for 400+ houses is too large. I understand that Waltham Abbey fire station is equipped to respond to river accidents and incidents. Also its close proximity to the M25 enables it to respond quickly to any motorway incidents. To close the fire station would be a retrograde step and could put lives at risk. If Waltham Abbey Fire Station is regarded as a prime housing site I would be OK with this as long as it is relocated in this area. As a Waltham Abbey resident for nearly 40 years and having gone to see the draft proposals and attended local meetings about it and spoken with WATC councillors, I feel that our councillors have put forward a lot of fair and considered changes to the draft plan which should be seriously taken into

consideration. They are residents of Waltham Abbey and know what is best for our town and I think without having a 'NIMBY' attitude.

Chipping Ongar (Draft Policy P 4)

Please provide reasons for your view on Chipping Ongar:

Buckhurst Hill (Draft Policy P 5)

Please provide reasons for your view on Buckhurst Hill:

North Weald Bassett (Draft Policy P 6)

Please provide reasons for your view on North Weald Bassett:

Chigwell (Draft Policy P 7)

Please provide reasons for your view on North Weald Bassett:

Theydon Bois (Draft Policy P 8)

Please provide reasons for your view on Theydon Bois:

Roydon (Draft Policy P 9)

Please provide reasons for your view on Roydon:

Nazeing (Draft Policy P 10)

Please provide reasons for your view on Nazeing:

Thornwood (Draft Policy P 11)

Please provide reasons for your view on Thornwood:

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

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:

No infrastructure deliver plan has been published yet which does not fill me with confidence. In Waltham Abbey we cannot cope with the existing population. The schools are full, the hospital is in special measures, or roads cannot cope (any incident on M25 or M11 brings Waltham Abbey to a stand still). Transport Links are poor. Flooding could certainly be a problem. Surely infrastructure should be considered in conjunction with increased housing or do we get the same as happened at the Meridian Park development in Waltham Abbey where much that was promised never materialised?

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

Paramount to sustainability is adequate infrastructure as nothing has been published yet, how can we comment? Nearly every aspect of infrastructure in Waltham Abbey is near breaking point.

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