

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

Stakeholder ID	3335	Name	Simon	Marzell	Epping Youth Football Club
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Method	Letter
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Date	17/1/2017
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Letter or Email Response:

Dear Sir/ Madam, Proposed mixed use development at North Weald Park I am contacting you as a committee member at Epping Youth Football Club to express our support for the proposed redevelopment of the North Weald Golf Club. Epping youth football operates 1.3 teams from the under 7's to the under 16's. In 2016 we started our grassroots academy to provide training for 4-7 year olds. We were approached by Quinn Estates to become part of the North Weald park development and with it a long lease on a state of the art clubhouse and pitches that will allow the hundreds of players we have to benefit from a truly outstanding facility. We are of course aware of the acute housing crisis in the UK and importantly locally in Essex and the Epping Forest District specifically and although we stand to benefit from potential new players from the housing estates being planned, we are also acutely aware that with new players comes the need to enhance our facilities. We are a local club and would see this proposal as an opportunity for local young people to have the ability to remain in the area in the future through the delivery of much needed private and affordable housing offering the opportunity to access the property market. We are of course extremely grateful to Epping Town Council and Upper Clapton Rugby Club for the use of their facilities but when an opportunity comes forward to acquire a phenomenal new facility, we are duty bound to investigate it. We are now in a position where we have a signed heads of terms with the developer and intend to work alongside them to push this development to the fore as the benefits for both our club and the community are very great indeed. It should be made clear that this is a piece of land that is home to an elitist sport that has seen a rapidly declining membership level. The proposals would replace the few users with thousands who with access to state of the art sports facilities can really benefit from the associated health and social benefits enhanced sporting activity. As a club we are very keen to discuss and meet with representatives of the council so that we can fully express how important this development is for us and the local community. Yours faithfully, Simon Marzell

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