

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

Stakeholder ID	4378	Name	Alyson Williams
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Letter or Email Response:

Dear Sir/Madam, I would like to log my strong objection to the proposed draft local plans for the Loughton area. I am a Loughton resident and have lived in Loughton for over 20 years. The reasons are as follows: The areas infra-structure is already creaking under the strain of serving the expanding population in the area; existing primary schools have already expanded as much as possible, and nurseries, doctor's surgeries, and hospitals are all under pressure because of the current population. If more houses were to be built there would need to be funding already in place to expand these facilities at the same time. It would be interesting to know how much funding has been allocated towards this; at the moment the plans seem to be for housing only with no thought of the additional services the new residents will need. There existing school and doctors surgeries will not cope with a major increase in numbers. A couple of the proposed sites are car parks. This is absolutely ridiculous as Loughton already has parking problems without creating more. Where do the planners think local residents and commuters are going to park? ALL car parks are used to the maximum so how can they possibly be earmarked for development. The roads will become dangerous for pedestrians too with cars being parked in inappropriate places. One example of current parking problems is Brooklyn Avenue which has become a real problem as cars are parked on both sides of a very busy road allowing single traffic only in places, resulting in drivers having to weave in and out of parked cars which is dangerous for pedestrians too who have to cross the road. Also, Station Road is becoming a problem as parking is at full capacity and at night people park again on both sides of the road demonstrating the need for ALL parking areas. Commuter numbers will once again increase resulting in already over-crowded tube trains with the added problem of extra parking needed. Visitors who come to Loughton, for the High Road and Forest, will think twice if parking is a problem resulting in reduced trade for local businesses. I work in Loughton and visitors to my office complain constantly about parking which often results in meetings being delaying due to one or more attendee trying to find a place to park. The dearth of parking is liable to adversely affect local jobs. Green spaces in the Debden area are vital for local residents. Families need these spaces to maintain their general well-being. Jessel Green in particular is constantly being used by the community and local residents and children. Events are held on this space which help to ensure a good community spirit. Mental Health problems are on the increase and the local authority should be doing everything they possibly can to try and reduce this issues - it is proven that green spaces help people with these kinds of problems and they should be kept as a priority. Wildlife will be also affected if pockets of green space are used. Flooding is on the increase and building houses in already condensed areas creates further environmental issues. These proposed developments will have a huge detrimental impact on the local area and the community feel that it currently has will be in jeopardy. Again, this affects the well-being of the local residents. The country should be regenerating and expanding towns where industries no longer exist in order to start spreading the wealth. These areas need housing and business investment. I am sure residents of these

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towns would welcome plans to invest in their areas and create jobs where it is needed. The South East certainly doesn't need to be continually over-developed and the area is financially stable compared to the rest of the country. Common sense is needed with long term planning that will be wise and cost-effective. The draft plans proposed are extremely short-sighted and seem to be a panic reaction to the demands of the Government (which will continue in the future even if these areas are used for development). We will basically be in the same position in 5 years time as the need is not going to go away with these stop-gap plans. Years of ignoring the need for new housing can not be remedied by steeling pockets of land and condensing the housing in areas where the population has already grown substantially. The council is creating more problems for the local community than it is solving. In ten years time will the council then be proposing that we develop on forest land? It makes sense, and will be good cost-effective planning, to create new towns in deprived areas of the country in order to create affordable housing which would certainly not be the case in Loughton! Finally, I understand that the councillors who have put forward these proposals do not live in the area which is not acceptable as they do not understand the impact these proposals would have. It should not be the case where these kinds of decisions are being made by people with no interest in the area. The Council and planners should be made to be more accountable and should be putting the interests of the local people first as the public ultimately help towards paying their salaries. Please listen to the local people who know this area and use common sense in planning decisions. Local people feel extremely strongly about these plans and the way our communities, and nation, is changing. There are so many other areas that would benefit from regeneration and help to resolve the ever-increasing housing problems - these plans are just be a sticking plaster and will not resolve the issue long-term. Alyson Williams

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