

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

Stakeholder ID	4295	Name	joanne halliwell
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Letter or Email Response:

I am writing to express my concern and disappointment at the amount of housing proposed for North Weald Village. Whilst I understand that North Weald could provide lots of areas for potential development, I feel those that have been selected will neither benefit the existing village and its residents nor the possible future new residents. I could understand that new residents would want to be close to local amenities, but North Weald has 2-3 shops and the majority of people have to commute to Epping or Harlow for supermarkets and transport links. Our buses are very unreliable, so do not understand that argument. Yes we have lots of green fields surrounding the village and this is what makes it a lovely place to live. Surely this also allows us to pick sites that would not impact on the 'village' feel and be less imposing on our current infrastructure? I do not understand why a section of the airfield could not be used or fields nearer the M11 where access would not be an issue and the potential thousands of additional cars would be kept away from the high road through the village. North Weald has a history of flooding and I am concerned that by building on the fields near Queens Rd and the flood meadows that it increases the potential for future floods. Those fields have a small stream/river that runs around it and connects into the flood meadow pond. The top corner of the field that backs onto the allotments gets incredibly wet and boggy and I wonder how much this field does to protect the surrounding housing? I do not understand why an area would be selected in the middle of a housing estate for a traveller site. I cannot see how travellers would want this (by there very name they are called travellers so would have thought they would want to be away from houses) **Redacted...** I consider myself lucky enough to live in Queens Road with the fields just adjacent to me. This is regularly used by many local residents to walk their dogs and is a public right of way. I can imagine that by building on this land that it would contribute to an increase in dogs fouling the streets and would make the local cricket ground messy and overcrowded with dog walkers. When I attended the local resident meeting at the Village Hall the council representative could not tell me whether additional schools would be provided and how the infrastructure would be improved. As it is, whenever there is an incident in Epping, on the M25 or the M11 Hastingwood Junction, the high street regularly becomes backed up with cars. This would only be made worse with the increase in cars, as most households have at least 2 cars nowadays. Imagine moving into the new development only to be so frustrated that the transport links were terrible and the roads were overcrowded. It could cause an increase in pollution and the possibility of many more people developing breathing difficulties such as asthma. Would our already overstretched doctors surgeries be able to cope? I know I cannot book an appointment unless it's many weeks in advance! We already know that Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow is in special measures and is struggling to cope with demand on it's services for the current population. How would it cope with such a large increase in demand and there is talk of taking the emergency services away from this hospital! Where would everyone be expected to go? It really does worry me that the plans are not more specific. I am not against change and

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understand that we need to build more housing but disagree with the way that this has been forced upon our local area without really taking into consider the implications to everyday life for its residents. It should not just be a numbers game to satisfy government figures. It should be about improving the quality of everyone's life by providing local amenities, good transport links, healthcare and schooling, not making it more stressful. I am sure that there are other areas surrounding North Weald, between our village and the M11 along the A414 that could be put forward and I hope that you take all this into consideration in the future.