

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

Stakeholder ID	4429	Name	Steve	Wakefield
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Date	11/12/2016
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Letter or Email Response:

Dear Sirs, Further to the councils proposals to build housing on station car parks and open spaces, there are many reasons why I OBJECT this proposal [...Redacted...] and extremely close to the proposed works. Developers will also need to take into consideration any structural damage that may be caused to mine and other house close by, especially between 63-84 Algers Road which as previously mentioned are right next to the proposed site. We have also heard that these dwellings near Loughton Station may be three stories high, possibly flats with underground parking facilities as part of a multi storey car park. I wouldn't have though that these high level buildings should be overlooking residential properties and thought we should ask for legal advice - fees to be absorbed by the council. We already experience ongoing problems with Loughton Station and often have gangs of undesirables hanging around outside our house/car park dealing drugs and setting fire to council litter bins which is a big enough threat to our quality of life. The building of new homes and underground/multi-storey car parks will further compound this situation, given that these car parks will be breeding grounds for drug dealers and their associates who freely distribute and peddle their wares openly outside my house and around the car park as mentioned above. I also can't imagine commuters and their families using these car parks given the presence of these anti-social individuals and these types of car parks increases the possibility of crime and should therefore be avoided. That said, we have little or no police presence in the area as the nearest Police Station is Harlow and the response times are totally inadequate. At present all schools, doctors, health clinics in the area are overstretched and it already takes about a month to get an appointment at local surgeries. An increase in the volume of people will already challenge an inadequate system which is at breaking point with no assurances of improvement in the near future. The high road is already awash with traffic and together with an already inadequate central line, more people will just challenge an already disruptive service. With regard to "open spaces", these were built for local communities to facilitate recreational ground for children and families. Playing in the forest wouldn't provide the "safe" aspect of communities looking out for one another, and may even expose children to possible abuse given the opportunists that may frequent the forest. This is not to mention the increase of traffic to an already busy area which is an already challenging situation. The library is also a fundamental part of our community and many families rely on these resources including access to computers for the unemployed or students on low incomes who cannot afford the luxuries of owning their own computer. The library also provides reading resources for all ages, weekly toddler sessions and because of the cutbacks to Sure Start Centres this provides a welcome break for children and their parents. How can you have a local town with no Library? Our family feels extremely strong about these views. The local neighbourhood we have been living in for the past 12 years has already seen changes which have been detrimental to community life, and squeezing new housing into an already overcrowded town will have a negative impact on our way of life. Kindest Regards Steve Wakefield

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