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Dear Sir/madam,

I am writing this letter in my capacity as a local Debden resident, the leader of Restore Community Church which is a major provider of community provision within the local community, and also as Co-chair as Churches Together In Loughton.

I am baffled, shocked and appalled by the proposal under the Local Plan to redevelop the Jessel Green playing fields on the Debden Estate. Anyone with local knowledge will know that this is one of the only local green spaces left that is open to all and that is much loved, valued and used by the local community. As a local resident, our family has frequently used the space to walk and play and we also regularly walk our dogs there. As a church, we have partnered in running an annual community fun day on the site which has regularly attracted over 2,000 local residents.

The Debden estate is already heavily populated and green spaces and an essential part of any community well-being by providing areas to walk, survey the view and relax. In addition, the estate already has 3 primary schools and 2 secondary schools on it -and still faces a space shortage. To add extra houses with no planned infrastructure will exacerbate local tensions and strains.

Having observed this process from the beginning, it seems very clear that several much more suitable locations have been discounted, seemingly by political self-interest and profiteering by Epping Forest District Council. There has been a huge amount of local disapproval, with petitions and objections lodged, but these have been sweepingly disregarded. A much more suitable option in Theydon Bois was rejected with much less public objection, and I am left thinking that the main reason Jessel Green continues to be promoted in the plan is because the District Council actually own the land and so can make as much money as they can from it. They seem to be totally disregarding the interests of local residents – the very people that they are meant to be representing.

I would urge you to examine this case very carefully and to ensure that Jessel Green is removed from the plan as soon as is possible.

Yours sincerely,

Ian King

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