

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

Stakeholder ID	3772	Name	G	Horrigan
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Method	Letter
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Date	14/11/2016
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Letter or Email Response:

Dear Sir, I am writing to you because, like so many other local residents, I am concerned about the possibility of our beautiful green spaces being built over. The Draft Local Plan has identified Jessel Green, Rochford Green and Borders Lane playing field as being suitable sites to build new houses. All of these places are invaluable to Loughton's residents. Families use them for recreation; to just enjoy the open air, to play ball games, fly kites, and ride bikes in safety, and to walk dogs. All of these activities need open space. Even those children lucky enough to have a garden seldom have enough space to do these things, and many children do not have a garden at all. We may be fortunate enough to live in close proximity to forest land, but children cannot play there in safety and it is not close enough or suitable for many elderly or disabled people. We need our open spaces for team games and community activities such as Jessel Green Community Fun Day. We should be actively building a stronger sense of community, not taking steps to destroy it! If Jessel Green, Rochford Green and Borders Lane playing field have the suggested number of new houses built on them there will be a total of 552 new houses on these sites alone. That could mean 552 more families needing the services of our local doctors, already overburdened. There could be 552 more families needing school places. Aren't many, if not all, of our schools already oversubscribed? There could be another 552 families running one or more cars, needing parking spaces, adding to the increasing volume of traffic and to the congestion on our roads. If our greens are built on it will massively increase the pressure on our drainage system. The more ground covered in concrete the less rainfall can be absorbed into the ground, further increasing the pressure on our drains and increasing the risk of flash floods. The Draft Local Plan also proposes building on Debden Station, Loughton Station, Traps Hill and Loughton Library car parks, and the High Road/Clifton Road car park. This could mean yet another 381 families needing health care, school places, adding to the volume of traffic, and needing parking spaces. Parking in Debden and Loughton is barely adequate now. Local transport would need to be substantially increased to persuade people to leave their cars at home, but our services are actually being reduced in the Debden area. Shoppers and commuters need to park. How much worse will it be with more people needing to park and less spaces to park in? Multi-storey car parks will dominate the surrounding area and ruin Loughton's character. We don't need another monstrosity like that currently being built on the site of the Sir Winston Churchill public house. If flats are built with underground parking it will create a space that many people, particularly women, will feel unsafe parking in, and would it provide space for shoppers and commuters, or residents of the flats? Surely it wouldn't be adequate enough to provide for both. High rise developments in and around the town centre will be overpowering, especially to those residents living nearby. There are plots of land in and around Langston Road and Oakwood Hill that could, perhaps, be considered for redevelopment. Loughton's greens were planned and designed for the well-being of its residents. The needs of the residents today are the same as they were then. The town has grown considerably, so that there is far less open ground than there used to

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be, and far more people needing it. For all of my childhood I lived in Loughton, and enjoyed its open spaces. I moved back again thirty years ago when I had children of my own. One of the deciding factors when choosing to move back to Loughton was that my children would have the benefit of its lovely green spaces, as I did when I was young. I have used these spaces for nearly all my life and hope to do so for many years to come, and would like to think that other families could continue to enjoy them. Loughton is a lovely town. Its beautiful green spaces and pleasant town centre give Loughton its unique, leafy character and over development would ruin that and deprive residents of vital amenities. It would be so sad to see this happen. Please don't let it. Yours sincerely Mrs. G. Horrigan