

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

Stakeholder ID	3758	Name	jackie hardy
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Method	Letter
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Date	1/12/2016
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Letter or Email Response:

Draft Local Plan - my response I have attended council meetings, local meeting organised by councillor, Lopping Hall display and LRA meeting at Murray Hall. I must say it has been Cllr Leon Girling who has really helped to keep me informed of meetings coming up and not EFDC, therefore, think you need to revisit and learn from him how to effectively communicate, engage and get the message out. I am a local resident who used to live in Debden part of the district as this is where my parents settled after leaving London and decided to have children in an area with green open spaces that I enjoyed using and have continued to use now as an adult. Green open spaces, such as Jessel Green are so important for physical and mental health and this has been outlined in Public Health England and UCL Institute of Health Equality report entitled 'Local action on health inequalities: Improving access to green spaces' link here https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/357411/Revi_ew8_Green_spaces_health_inequalities.pdf One key message in this report says: "Access to good quality green space is associated with a range of positive health outcomes including better self-rated health; lower body mass index scores, overweight and obesity levels; improved mental health and wellbeing and increased longevity in older people." I have lived experience of mental health and green open spaces that are safe for me to walk and has helped turn around the depressive episodes that I have experienced. Therefore, I would like to continue to use these along with making sure others in Epping Forest District can enjoy. I am very concerned that in the Loughton area alone around 1,190 homes are planned and 195 of these are on Jessel Green, which is a very well used and needed open green space. Taking away this green area would be a loss of around 65% of green open spaces for Debden area, which I find shocking and completely unacceptable. I am aware there is a housing need so why is a new town not looked at like Debden was and Harlow. I would urge EFDC to look at new town options along with alternative Brownfield sites, as surely these must come first until fully exhausted e.g. Clinton cards site Langston Road. The Metropolitan Police Chigwell site surely is another possible site. My other big concern is that our current infrastructure struggles to cope now, so how would it cope with all the planned new housing and people needing to access local transport, hospital, schools, GPs, increased pressure on old drains in areas that has experience flooding (green spaces help soak up excess rain), parking and the increased traffic on the road, as I know the plan is for 11,400 new homes, plus the Langston Road development of retail outlets. I really do not think EFDC has given this enough proper thought in to this and quite frankly this really scares me then as seems to be based on "hope it works out" which in my opinion not enough around solutions. EFDC does not have control of Gp's, CCG, NHS, TFL etc. This is our Local Plan, therefore, I hope EFDC listen to residents and we can all come together at a joint meeting to have a proper next stage meeting before any more Local Plan Consultation documents are written without us. I have worked for years as an Engagement Manager and believe in real co-production. I know you had workshops with local councillors but it seems you did not listen to their concerns either. Therefore, I urge you

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to think again about this scary plan that in my opinion will change our district forever for the worst. If I wanted to live in an overcrowded London borough without green open spaces, lack of access to services I would have chosen that option but I did not and neither did my parents for us children. I really hope some common-sense prevails. Looking forward to being a part of future work with you and not being told this is my local plan when I have not been a part of developing it.