

From: Ron Heath
Subject: Local Plan Consultation
Date: 5 November 2020 at 17:50:35 GMT
To: louise@poservices.co.uk

Following a letter from the Inspector, dated 12 October, my comments are as follows:

I am not qualified to make any meaningful comments on the housing numbers for the district. I think that would apply similarly to some other consultees who have not responded, rather than assuming that they are in agreement.

However, I am extremely concerned with the housing numbers in Loughton, as I set out formerly in my Statement of December 2016 (with others), January 2018 and February 2019. The Plan calls for Loughton to receive over 1,000 dwellings, which is 25% of the 4,000 plus dwellings required across the whole district, in addition to those already allocated for the Garden Town, windfalls and those already approved.

Because it is confined by the extra protection afforded to the majority of the Green Belt adjoining its borders, Loughton does not have the facility of making discreet colonisation of Green Belt Land, as other settlements in the District have, to accommodate some of the extra dwellings. The only way of accommodating the required number is high-rise buildings and intensification, in part by destroying valuable buildings (houses, the library) which will severely change the character of Loughton in conflict with explicit policies and aims set out in the Plan.

The foregoing and my earlier statements give valid reasons for objecting to the amount of the proposed housing are reinforced, and even overshadowed, the by the requirements of the Epping Forest Area of Conservation. It is dismaying to note that our elected councillors and council officers appear to be working on a desk-top and paper

exercise (with its frequent inaccuracies) to overcome the profound problems that are concerning Natural England.

Those problems the Council is rejecting, judging from its Position Statement, with comments like "Unfortunately, since early 2019, NE has maintained an objection" and "Unfortunately, to unblock development Council is having to . . .". What is unfortunate about objecting to developments which might harm the Forest?

It is more unfortunate that the Council is rejecting objections from both the community and those who are there to protect the Forest, in favour of excess development above that which is acceptable to the community as a whole.

RON HEATH
5 November 2020

Sent from my iPad