

VT to UDC PPWG on 22 June 17

Ladies & gentlemen, thank you for your time.

I address you today as spokesman for the Residents Action Group,
STOP EASTON PARK

The Land Securities proposal makes no sense.

A new town:

- within 2 kms of a major airport;
- under a key flight path with 139 flights a day;
- with limited local employment prospects;
- to create a dormitory town;
- where transport links, road & rail, struggle to cope;
- to create urban sprawl from the M11 to Great Dunmow

As to deliverability and infrastructure, the track record of Land Securities at Ebbsfleet speaks for itself. This proposal makes no sense.

And at what cost would this third-rate plan be achieved?

The Chairman of the Little Easton Parish Council has just demonstrated how the heritage has not been adequately addressed in the papers given to you.

~~It is a travesty that your Landscape consultants should state that "there are no Conservation areas within or adjoining the site" when the Little Easton Conservation Area marks one of the main entrances to the Park.~~

We welcome the omission that has just been corrected in respect of the Little Easton Conservation Area but such an omission must call into question the credibility of the consultants.

Let there be no mistake, Easton Park has been one of the great parks of Essex for centuries:-

- Recorded in 1302
- Mapped in 1594, 1756 and 1777.
- Detailed on the first ordinance survey maps of 1875
- Evidenced by aerial photographs in 1943

It is equal to Hylands Park, Audley End, Braxted, Layer Marney, Wivenhoe, the great parks of Essex.

And it remains exactly as it has been for centuries, its boundaries, clearly visible today, marked by:-

- the Conservation area to the north east;
- the listed garden to the north;
- the SSSI wood, Highwood to the south;
- other surrounding woods;
- enhanced by 19 listed buildings; and
- a rich and colourful history.

I would happily demonstrate this to any of you that are interested.

Yes, trees were tragically lost in 1943; and, yes, Easton Lodge was pulled down in 1950. But the park, the park, remains as was, a magnificent piece of land, converted to high grade arable use.

Land of:

- great beauty;
- untold environmental value;
- intersected by multiple footpaths and bridleways; and
- widely enjoyed by walkers, runners, bird watchers and horse-riders from far and wide.

These aspects have not been brought to your attention.

Why squander such an asset on a third-rate housing project? An asset with the potential to play the role of the great parks of London

Ladies & gentlemen, there are alternatives. New settlements are not a prerequisite. Carver Barracks will become available.

Recognise Easton Park for what it is, a jewel of Essex, and do not squander it for a third-rate solution to a short-term problem.