

**Public Representations: Extraordinary Council Meeting on 30 April – received before the deadline of 12pm on 28 April**

Dear Councillors,

We are residents of Church End, Broxton. We understand that you will be considering the Local Plan at your meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April, and we urge you to vote for complete withdrawal of the Plan as in our opinion it is so badly flawed that no amount of amendment would make it acceptable.

Yours sincerely,

**Helen and Stuart Walker**

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Sirs,

As a local resident I wish to support the withdrawal of the most recent Local Plan due to the concerns outlined by the Inspectors.

It is imperative that we have a Local Plan to protect us from unscrupulous developers but it needs to meet the standard requirements.

Any future plan needs to be monitored throughout the creation stages to ensure that the next submission will be successful.

Yours Faithfully,

**Alison Farrell**

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Dear Sir/Madam,

It is with great relief that the UDC are considering to adopt the sensible conclusions regarding the Easton Park plan as put forward by the Inspectors and withdrawing the current Easton Park plan. Stepping back for a moment. It is not logical to build 10,000 dwellings beneath an airport which will expand and is one of the largest in the United Kingdom .

The social impact that would occur from pollution from the numerous vehicles from the tens of thousands of new residents mingled with the many hundreds of thousands of currently agreed passenger expansion travellers would be of great detriment to the local area. Couple that with the foolhardy plan of having the bus link from Braintree to Stansted Airport as a sustainable means of maximising the plans allegedly sound sustainable credentials (that meant buses only could use the A120 at certain times) would seriously hinder the growth of businesses and employment in local area. There is little benefit to the local residents to such a plan . Merely building dwellings to satisfy a statistical need is not a serious and grown up way of resolving a national housing shortage.

There needs to be more housing in the UK. Dunmow has certainly taken it's fair share of housing development. The houses built in the last few and next ten years will double the size of it's population even without the Easton Park development . There are insufficient doctors surgeries,schools, and other services (noting there in no longer a police station) in Dunmow to

suggest this town can really take any more development than has already been pre agreed is doomed to fail.

Why not focus on brownfield sites. Build very small developments next to villages so that local families have a sporting chance of being able to encourage teachers and essential workers to stay in the community. However looking to build 10,000 dwellings adjacent to a flood plain is clearly foolish but sadly is what Little Easton in the Duckend area suffers from on occasion.

In conclusion if you consider the Inspectors report and reject the plan. Go back to the local populace and work with us to help fulfil your duties. Together we are more able to support you where we can collectively agree a sensible plan for Uttlesford where we can all (in the main)agree with.

Kind regards,  
**Andy Wise**

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Dear Sirs,

I understand that you are meeting on 30.4.20 to discuss the proposal to remove the current Local Plan. I would like to support this proposal. Having read the Inspector's letter 10.1.20 on the Local Plan, it is clear that the plan is not achievable in its current form and the clear oversight in infrastructure, cost, transport links, increase in transport etc have not been considered in detail. The cost of this Local Plan was £4million and consideration needs to be given to what UDC can expect back from the group who wrote this document - it is shoddy and has served no purpose. We need a clear Local Plan that takes account of the valuable heritage of the area. Perhaps another questionnaire to all residents is in order when clear choices of proposed developments have been compiled.

Regards,  
**Ruma Lacey**

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Dear Councillors

Following the significant concerns of the inspectors and your independent review I feel confident that you will now agree to formally withdraw the flawed local plan submitted by your predecessors . You now have all the facts supporting this decision verified by independent experts . This is why we voted for you.Thank you for listening to your "customers".

I am sure that we can all agree that when we eventually return to normal it will be a new normal. The benefits to the environment of the current lock down may be short lived but please go with the evidence and support Easton Park's plan to return this area to its former glory with 10,000 trees to be planted to replace those destroyed during the last world war and make it clear that this area of natural beauty will never be a building site.

With the considerable expansion to our neighbouring towns of Dunmow and Takely we need to balance this with a new woodland .

Thank you . Yours,  
**Warwick Newbury**

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I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed New Town at Easton park.

The plan should be withdrawn for many reasons, not least because withdrawal of the plan was the planning Inspectors' preferred option.

As someone who has lived in the area all my life, I consider the park to be an invaluable asset for local people that should be retained for the benefit of future generations.

Kind regards

**Geraldine Allars**

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Yet again we find ourselves having to justify why Easton Park should not go ahead. As a resident of Little Easton it horrifies me, my family and neighbours, that this ridiculous plan was ever put forward in the first place. Destroying acre upon acre of much needed farmland and nature sights in this area. Building so close to a large airport brings pollution and safety issues into the discussion. Lack of infrastructure, roads, schools, hospitals, shops need looking at. Jobs for all new residents are non-existent in the surrounding area so more traffic using the A120 and M11 for journeys to and from London. The market town of Great Dunmow would be overwhelmed, schools, doctors, Tesco's, our local roads would not cope. Some years ago, Uttlesford was voted one of the top areas to live in the whole of the country and ever since then the powers that be seem bent on making the people's lives in Uttlesford a misery. Our wild life will be affected. Take Highwood and its herd of deer which have roamed the area for ever, where will they roam if Easton Park gets the go ahead? The answer is, they won't. They will disappear from our countryside mostly killed on the roads in the area which will be clogged with so much additional traffic. 10,000 homes means at least an additional 18,000 cars in the area and that is without all the additional traffic from all the other major building developments in the surrounding district. Crime rates will increase, they always do when these types of developments are built, look at the history of places over the years that have been built, Harlow, Basildon to name but two. Uttlesford have over the years allowed so much of our green belt and other sites to be built on. We are now faced with Acres of new homes from Highwood down to Tesco's and at the back of the defunct police station. Plus we have the gravel pits to contend with for many more years in the area. Come on Uttlesford, enough is enough. Let's end this problem and say NO to Easton Park once and for all.

**Mr D Harmer**

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Dear Councillors,

**I am writing to urge you to vote for the withdrawal of the Uttlesford Local Plan**, a plan that has been diplomatically, yet heavily criticised by the Government-appointed Inspectors and also the regional Local Government Association; eminent professionals with decades of planning experience. To ignore their separate and independent recommendations to withdraw would not only be unwise, but truly reckless. A vote not to withdraw will perhaps finally prove to residents that excessive hubris does exist among some Members (and Officers) of Uttlesford District Council. And will need expunging at the earliest opportunity.

Having stated the above, I fully expect the vote will overwhelmingly support withdrawal. There were inordinate criticisms in the Inspectors report, again confirmed in the separate LGA report, that cannot be ignored. Even those Councillors who steadfastly supported the plan through Regulations 18 and 19 must now surely recognise its significant failings.

I am not going to recap those failings; the Inspectors and LGA have already done that. Nor am I going to suggest what should be done to create a sound new local plan in a cost-effective way (although I have many ideas for those willing to listen). No - this vote is solely about withdrawal. Starting a new local plan, which benefits residents over land development promoters and truly encapsulates transparency when arriving at realistic solutions to real-world problems is for tomorrow. And another vote.

To Councillors who have had and continue to have grave misgivings about the Local Plan, thank you for your pragmatism and support to the many residents who would otherwise be adversely affected by it.

To the few Councillors (if any) who plan to continue supporting the Local Plan despite the aforementioned professional and experienced advice, there is nothing more that can be added to the argument to dissuade you. But you should quiz your motivation. After all, it may be courageous to take a contrary position to your peers but to ignore professional recommendations for no better reason than hubris would be foolhardy in the extreme.

To those that understand residents concerns, no further professional advice is necessary. To those that don't, no amount of advice will ever be enough.

Yours respectfully,

**Peter R. Bright**

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Dear Committee Members,

Following the UDC press release of 21 April, I wish to make a representation to encourage all Councillors to vote to withdraw the Local Plan at the at an Extraordinary Council Meeting on Thursday, 30th April.

Development at Easton Park would be unsustainable for the environment. There already is a lack of infrastructure in the area and pressure is increasing because of developments at Great Dunmow and Little Canfield.

Withdrawal of the local plan would result in preserving this historic landscape and the quality of life for existing residents.

Yours faithfully

**Diana Houlton**

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Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to strongly object to the local plan on the following grounds:

Stortford Road is often, under normal circumstances, extremely busy. There is already a building scheme destined for land west of Woodside Way. This will lead to further congestion, more pollution and noise.

Great Dunmow is a beautiful historic market town which is slowly losing its identity due to an expanding population in the neighbouring area. More building in the area will have a detrimental effect upon its character.

Under the current circumstances, with an impending economic downturn, I suspect there will not be a requirement for extra housing given people's financial status in being able to afford to purchase houses.

Yours Sincerely  
**John Woodhead**

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Re vote at ECM on Thursday 30 April 2020 regarding Uttlesford Local Plan

I am writing to urge you to vote to withdraw the Local Plan, the entire strategy needs to be rethought, this Plan has shown to be flawed and to have little public support.

Please withdraw it and when you start again please truly consult with residents and dare to be innovative by recognising the need to protect the rural nature of this district, the need to keep our environment healthy, the need to give people space, the need to reduce congestion. Take this opportunity to think again, really listen and find a way forward without the blight that would be Easton Park.

Regards, **Lisa Smith**

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I am writing to express my agreement to the Local Plan being withdrawn as advised by the Planning Inspectors.

Yours faithfully

**Carol Allars**

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In accordance with your email update on the local plan, I wish to make the following submission:

1. I welcome the abandonment of the existing, proposed Local Plan;
2. In particular, I objected to the huge "Garden Communities" planned for the Uttlesford area. They will be a blight on the local landscape and would put an enormous strain on local infrastructure. For instance, the absence of REAL, SUBSTANTIVE mass transit plans would lead to unbelievable pressure on local roads. Uttlesford would slowly become like South Essex – a large metropolitan area swamped by road traffic and enormous urban

developments. Maintaining this beautiful part of the world should be the Council's number one priority. It is why people live here;

3. Account should be taken of the THOUSANDS of properties that have been built in Uttlesford whilst the last Plan was being prepared. This must surely make a significant dent in the council's housing obligations for the next ten years. We should not try to plan ahead too far. As the coronavirus epidemic has shown, things can change quickly and we should not be wedded to one single path;
4. Wherever possible, housing needs should be shared among the existing conurbations in the district, where people want to live. Garden Communities should be resisted.

Regards,  
**Tim Young**

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I write in relation to Uttlesford District Council's recommendation that the Local Plan in its current format is withdrawn when the Council meet this coming 30<sup>th</sup> April. I understand this was the planning Inspector's preferred option and I am writing to state my support of this measure.

Yours faithfully,

**Bob Brooker**

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I most sincerely hope that you do vote to withdraw from the current, flawed local plan.

Why?

- 1) The traffic in our area has reached its limit for ease of travel. The noise pollution and air quality are hugely unpleasant.
- 2) I am appalled to see the new Arris fencing all along the Stortford Road from the Tesco Roundabout to the Highwood. Once this is finished the roundabout will be a real pollution and accident hot spot. I live on the Folly Farm development and frequently have near misses on returning home. How would it be if the area behind and around Stags Farm and Folly Farm are also developed! I shudder to think.
- 3) The infrastructure of new doctors surgeries, a new school, outdoor facilities and community Centers has not been forthcoming, despite the huge amounts of development already achieved. So little area of natural habitat is now left for our wildlife. These things were all promised in the original plan, in fact they were unreasonably highlighted in the canvassing!
- 4) With the housing market and economy in general all now in a state of flux, and who knows just where we are headed? IT IS TIME TO STOP!

Please vote against the current plan. We have all had enough.

With sincere thanks  
In anticipation of the right decision  
Keep safe and well

**Caroline Woodhead**

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I strongly endorse the proposal to withdraw the local plan.  
It was badly drawn and never had the support of the local community on which any successful implementation will depend.  
I ask that my earlier suggestions regarding the flaws in the local plan will not be lost when the new local plan is being developed.  
Yours faithfully,  
**Bruce Drew**

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We are writing in support of the Council's recommendation, being discussed at the Extraordinary Council Meeting on Thursday 30th April, to withdraw the draft Local Plan. Indeed, given the twenty-four page letter setting out the Inspectors' response following the examination of the Local Plan last year, it is difficult to see how any other course of action can be taken. The Inspectors expressed many serious concerns about the sustainability and suitability of 'Garden Communities' in this area, and it is to be hoped that the new plan will abandon the previous fixation on these developments as the way forward. So much public money has been wasted on the submission of the Local Plans in recent years that it is also to be hoped that this time the process is carried out speedily, effectively and with transparency.

Best regards, **Maggie and John Stevens**

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I have two questions for consideration:

1-How can UDC taxpayers be sure that any replacement Plan will be 'sound' and have all the 'required evidence attached' to its submission? I ask this because surely the UDC Planning officials should not have allowed the submission of the previous Plan rejected by the Inspectors on the grounds (among others) that it was 'unsound' that it 'lacked supporting evidence' in many respects, with many examples being submitted later apparently in attempted justification rather than having obtained them in advance and used the material to aid decision-making? These are matters that politicians as well as taxpayers are surely entitled to look to officials to get right?

Thursday's Chairman, Mr Freeman is aware that my experience and that of neighbours in the newish development where we live and for which planning permission was granted only about seven or eight years ago was that we have suffered because Planning Officials were not alert to many fairly straightforward issues and even allowed permission for some things that were against UDC's own published policies.

2-Given the inter-dependency on decisions made by other bodies, in particular Highways England, Essex County Council and Cambridgeshire County Council, will UDC ensure that any replacement Local Plan including new houses in Saffron Walden and the area north of there will not be submitted unless the relevant bodies have given firm commitments, with dates, to adding north-bound access to, and exit coming from the north on the M11 at Junction 9 and also fundamental measures to remove the daily bottlenecks lasting several hours at the 'McDonald's roundabout' at the A505 junction? These measures need to be completed in advance of any such new housing development.

Yours faithfully  
**James Little**

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I would like to add my support for the Planning Inspector's proposal to reject planning permission for the building of 10,000 new homes at Easton Park.

Thank you,

Kind regards,  
**Jan Maze**

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I understand UDC have recommended withdrawal of the Local Plan. This has my full support and in these troubled times this action would be some very good news.

Kind Regards

**Alan Veats**

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I am writing to express my view that the Local Plan should be withdrawn.

In saying this, I note that this was the recommendation of the planning inspector.

Yours sincerely

**Jonathan Fox**

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This is to confirm my support for withdrawal of Dunmow New Town. **Jean Thompson**

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We wanted to support the withdrawal of the local plan, to protect the deer park and keep Great Dunmow as it is and not turn it into a mass housing estate.

I'm saddened to see this happening opposite the vast woodlands park development where it looks like three fields are already being getting ready for development.

Please protect our area and the way it is today so that in years to come it can still be enjoyed and appreciated.

Thank you  
Mr and Mrs D Chalkley

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Thank you for updating me on the meeting with regard to the UDC LP on 30th April. I very much support the fact that it has now been realised that the UDC LP is unworkable, particularly in light of the Government Inspector's post Inspection conclusions. Both the Inspectors and the Peer Review

that has been carried out have highlighted the issues and difficulties relating to large scale garden communities that the majority of us have known about since these were first mooted.

I hope very much that a new LP which focuses on putting houses in the right places, building out from existing settlements rather than trying to force large scale development into unsuitable locations, is the way forward for UDC.

Best wishes

**Sue Baugh**

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The draft Local Plan **did not contain General Planning Policies (GEN1 etc.)** which are necessary principles to guide future development in the District. It was claimed that these policies were incorporated elsewhere in the draft Plan, but this was not true. **The GEN policies have withstood the test of time and should be carried over to the next Local Plan.**

In the circumstances, I support the withdrawal of the draft Local Plan.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Walford**

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I thoroughly support the proposed withdrawal of the local plan, to be approved at the meeting on 30th April.

Easton Park needs to be protected, as well as our surrounding countryside.

**Penny Steele**

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Agreed - it should be reworked but quickly to prevent any more expansion without due regard to services and facilities like schools, doctors, dental practices etc.

John Howett

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Further to your request, please find attached my comments.

I live at Great Chesterford, where the North Uttlesford (alleged) Garden Village is being considered. In my view the proposal is totally inadequate, flawed and in the wrong place.

I hope the failings expressed by the Inspectors Report are acted upon in terms of:

A. The removal of North Uttlesford Garden Community (NUGC) as there are numerous barriers and fails to perform against the principles of a Garden Community.

B. The Local Plan is ill-conceived and insufficiently funds to support the needs of NUGC.

C. The concept that Essex should support the housing requirements of Cambridgeshire is ill considered.

D. The proposed road system for vehicles and cycles is ill-conceived and shows a lack of vision, verging on impulsive planning.

E. The proposal to use the current Railway Station at Great Chesterford as a main station is flawed as it has limited ad-hoc parking, with a poor access road.

Regards

Phillip Lamborn

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We are invited to send representations on the Local Plan Report, to be shared with all councillors prior to the meeting.

Our representations are:

- Given that the Local Plan Report by Councillor Evans dated 30 April 2020 is based on the reasoned conclusions of the Government appointed Examining Inspectors (their letter of 10 Jan 2020), **and** an independent Peer Review by the East of England Local Government Association undertaken in light of the 10 Jan 2020 letter (Review dated 23 March 2020), surely the only sensible option is to withdraw the 2018 proposed version of the Local Plan and start work on a new plan.
- Our own experience has been that UDC has asked three times for comments on 3 proposed versions of the Plan (2014, 2017, 2018), we have responded three times (with reasons and professional support – see attached) and UDC has three times ignored what we and/or the Inspector has said on the points raised. This suggests UDC is conducting a conversation of its own, in isolation, disconnected from the process it is supposed to be following.
- We suggest the time may have come for UDC to listen (objectively, and not selectively) to the independent professional feedback that it has received, start again and get it right (or hand it over to someone else who can).
- In the circumstances, it is unclear to us why a meeting is being called asking for people to comment and Councillors to vote.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy and Fiona Brittenden

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*END*