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To whom it may concern,

Please see below my response to the Epping Town Plan consultation. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Main points of response:

- I am not against the new development or new houses being added to the town, but I remain unconvinced that it can be done without further adding to the pressure on the roads. The traffic congestion on our road network is ridiculous at times, not helped by seemingly weekly roadworks and temporary lights always in the very worst places. Adding more cars all trying to get to the same places (nursery and schools, station, high street, motorway etc) it will make a bad situation worse. Adding a new road sounds like a logical solution, but it's not clear where it will run to or from, or how it will solve congestion to key destinations.
- My main concern with the new development is the traffic caused by the construction itself, no doubt over multiple years. Are we to live in gridlock for the next five years with Lorries and trucks clogging up our town and destroying what is left of the already potholed road surfaces. There must be a route onto the construction site straight from the M25 without having to come in and out of the town. There is an existing emergency slip road that could be converted or used for this purpose I believe.
- The proposal in the plans I would like to support above all others is the greenways, and in particular a greenway ACROSS Bell Common. Coming across the Common on foot over the summer is so lovely, but for 8 months of the year residents of Bell Common are so badly isolated. The common gets too wet and muddy to walk across if heading to the high street or commuting to work. But getting to the footpath on the other side of the road is dangerous with no crossing, then the pavement is so narrow in places, and then there are enormous puddles in the road that you get soaked by when cars drive through them. As a result, what should be a delightful and peaceful walk between Bell Common and the town is actually pretty stressful and dangerous. We drive so often when we should/could walk! Having a year round option to cross the common on foot/bike for our whole family would transform our life and experience [REDACTED]. I know it will be challenging negotiating this with the City of London Corporation, but it will be worth it. It will open up the forest for people in the town to explore, and bring people onto the common to enjoy the green space. It will create safe space for children to learn to ride their bikes, something that Epping totally lacks. Please, please prioritise these proposals and make sure the greenway goes right across the common, not just up to it!
- The final thing I want to feed back on is the horrendous situation outside Ivy Chimneys school [REDACTED]. It's a miracle children aren't run down all the time! Where are the yellow zig zag lines covering the whole stretch of road? Where is the 20 mph limit? Where is the lollipop person? I have never seen anything like this outside a school in my life. You just get this situation sorted, and the biggest problem causing the danger is the parking bays in the road that block the lanes of traffic. As cars need to whizz round parked cars, it causes havoc and congestion and hazards for children crossing the road, right at the worst possible location. The parking bays must be moved off the road and onto where there is currently a grass verge, and there must be no

parking on the road anywhere near the front gates of the school. A safe crossing point is also desperately needed, so the life's of children are prioritised over motorists and convenience of parking.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Regards,

Thomas Fish