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The Members of the Housing Scrutiny Panel
Epping Forest District Council
Civic Offices
High Street
Epping
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6th September 2010

Dear Members

HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING WEDNESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER

(ITEM 5) REVIEW OF PROPOSED NEW LICENCE CONDITIONS FOR PERMANENT RESIDENTIAL PARK HOME SITES.

I am writing in support of residents of the Roydon Mill Caravan Park who are opposed to the blanket introduction of 2008 Model Standards for Caravan Sites in England. Of particular concern is the retrospective introduction of standards which would increase the distance between park homes and reduce the height of fencing and hedging.

Roydon Mill Caravan Park (residential) is an established site which is well run. Many of the residents are elderly and have been in occupation for many years. Their plots are very individual and add to the overall character of the site but are very neat and tidy.

The Model Standards, whilst commendable in respect of new/proposed sites, should not be allowed to affect the quality of life of long standing residents such as those at Roydon Mill.

Safety is obviously a primary concern but facts concerning the fire risk posed at park homes appear to have been overstated and therefore removal of hedging/fencing is unnecessary and would have a detrimental effect on the character of the site. Screening provides privacy and its removal would also increase the risk of flooding.

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Robert Halfon MP
Harlow



I understand that other councils have, at their discretion, not applied certain parts of the Model Standards retrospectively and I would hope that EFDC chooses to do the same on Wednesday.

Finally I will be contacting the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Communities and Local Government Minister, asking him for his comments on the Model Standards and their implementation.

Yours faithfully

Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP

Tel: 01279 311452

Please reply to the Harlow Office

c.c. Cabinet Members

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