

Julia Davies, Liberal Democrat

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I believe that the current proposals for the Harlow North development are unsustainable and put too many demands on the infrastructure of roads, schools and other services. It is my view that a large development of this kind would damage the character of the surrounding countryside.

Local Liberal Democrats have a strong track record of defending the green belt from development. We successfully opposed plans to relocate two Bishop's Stortford secondary schools onto a large green belt site between the town and Spellbrook, and have campaigned for years against further airport expansion at Stansted Airport. The Liberal Democrats in government were able to deliver good news to hundreds of households in the Herts and Essex area in May 2010 when it was announced that the coalition were scrapping the planned second runway at Stansted Airport.

Liberal Democrats believe that that, where there is a proven need for additional housing, it should be spread across the district's towns and villages, rather than concentrated on one site with no existing services and amenities. The district of East Hertfordshire is much better suited to organic growth, and in my view a development of the kind suggested in the Harlow North proposal is not appropriate for the character of East Hertfordshire.