

56-page  
**HOMES**  
and property  
supplement

# EPPING FOREST Guardian

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# WE WILL BATTLE 'GHETTO' PLANS

By **DAVID JACKMAN**

djackman@london.newsquest.co.uk

**OUTRAGED** families are fighting plans to build a staggering 351 homes on part of the St Margaret's Hospital site.

For eight years people living close by have known a developer wanted to build homes on land off The Plain.

But now the full scale of the proposal has been revealed - a colossal mix of one and two-bedroom apartments and two, three and four bedroom houses - neighbours have launched a campaign to thwart it.

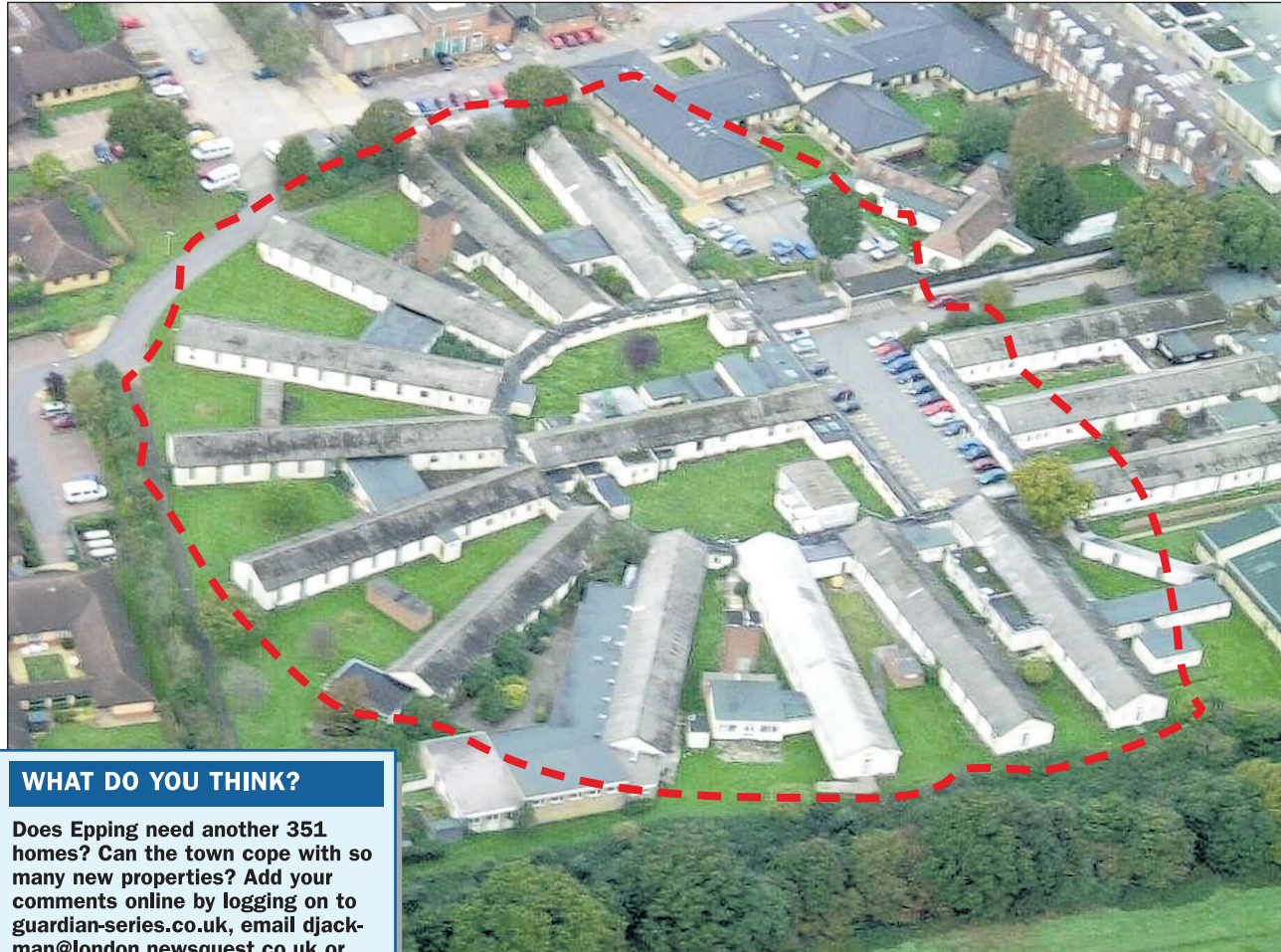
And such is the strength of feeling, the district council has been urged to extend the 21-day period for public comments.

Epping town councillors have likened the development to a "prison barracks" or an "over-built ghetto".

One resident of The Plain said: "It's a massive development. Some of the buildings will be four storeys which is higher than any other residential property in the immediate area - there are so many things, where does one start?"

"The scale is huge but this is virtually rural here, certainly semi-rural, and the local

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### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Does Epping need another 351 homes? Can the town cope with so many new properties? Add your comments online by logging on to [guardian-series.co.uk](http://guardian-series.co.uk), email [djackman@london.newsquest.co.uk](mailto:djackman@london.newsquest.co.uk) or call the newsdesk on 01992 563104

An aerial view of part of the St Margaret's Hospital site. The area inside the red dots is roughly where developer Bellway Homes wants to build 351 properties (c)

### LOUGHTON

**BIRDS of a Feather** actress Pauline Quirke has opened her own performing arts academy at Debden Park High School.

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### CHIGWELL

**THE father of Rhiya Malin**, the two-year-old who died when she became trapped in a Wendy House at Eton Manor Children's Day Nursery, has demanded answers over how his daughter died.

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