

I wanted to give you just a few comments on the local plan.

Firstly, it is so long and complicated that a lay-person could not possibly make a fully informed judgement on it.

Secondly, the response survey is far too long and requires far too much effort to complete it. As above - it needs a well-informed person to make useful comment.

Thirdly, there has been recent information in the quality press that suggests that the government has got its growth projections across the UK wrong.

Fourthly, there is a huge amount of land in Enfield that could be developed without taking yet more green belt land (Tottenham Hotspur training ground and now, potentially, a huge chunk of Whitewebbs are/were both green belt land). How can the creation of an academy for female footballers be described as a benefit to the wider local community? It is a benefit to Tottenham and involves the loss of a significant amount of green belt for what will almost certainly be a "closed" operation.

Fifth, there has been a lot in the local press about the Meridian Water development which appears to be in disarray. If the local plan is taken up, let's hope it is much better developed and implemented.

Sixth, I do not trust the Council - dominated as it is by a clique of Labour Councillors - to get this right. Someone in authority failed miserably to keep its promises with regard to consultation on the Whitewebbs issue. Furthermore there was a misrepresentation of the facts with regards to the closure of the golf course. There were attempts to justify this by saying there were other courses close by, when it must have been clearly known that the Crews Hill golf was earmarked as a potential site for housing development. It is also fairly common knowledge that a Labour Councillor, in discussing Whitewebbs with a local group, used the derogatory term "tree huggers". I was told of this by a person present at the meeting. This same Councillor will along the line have a lot to say about the local plan - a person who appears to have minimal concern or empathy for both the Green Belt and the depth of emotion throughout the Borough about what is going on.

Finally, there is little confidence in the leadership of Enfield Council. There has been much bad press and many resignations because of internal conflict. In our ward we lost a very good Labour Councillor who had done a great amount of good work for local residents. She left because she had "had enough". Whatever format the local plan finally follows, a very persuasive PR programme is needed if it is to meet with local acceptance. Anything that bears the stamp of the Leader of the Council is likely to be unwelcome.