
Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

I am writing in response to the consultation.

In brief, I object to the following Policies:

SP PL10, pages 80-87, and Figure 3.11

SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3

SA45, Land between Camlet Way and Crescent Way, Hadley Wood, page 364

SA54, page 374

SA62, page 383

SP CL4 pages 277-279 - all of which propose the de designation of Green Belt for housing and other purposes.

All these sites are part of historic Enfield Chase, which played an important role in the development of Enfield. The remaining parts of the Chase are unique in the southeast and a rare and valuable landscape asset. The loss of these sites would cause permanent harm not only to the Green Belt, but also to the very character of the borough. Vicarage Farm is crossed by the Merryhills Way footpath, much-used by Enfield residents and others for exercise and relaxation, and the physical and mental health attributes of the footpath would be destroyed by development. The farmland could be put back into productive use growing local food for local people. Crews Hill is equally important to the borough and should not be destroyed. Its garden centres and other businesses provide employment and a resource for people from Enfield and beyond. Instead of losing Crews Hill for housing, its horticulture activities should be encouraged and enhanced so that it can once again be a hub for food and plant production.

While I support housing development and support the ambition to meet Enfield's housing needs, I strongly object to the proposal to release Green Belt for housing or other purposes. I believe that there are alternatives available to meet housing targets and that the Green Belt is a precious resource that should be protected and preserved for future generations. It is too valuable to lose for all the many environmental, ecological, economic, public health and other reasons that have been identified, especially during the recent pandemic. The Council has a duty of care for the Green Belt, in accordance with the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and any intentions to release parts of it should be taken out of the local plan.

I feel that the Council is trying scare tactics, by alluding to the fact that more tall buildings will be needed, if the Green Belt is used. Finally the Council's efforts to publicise the local plan have been poor, without even having an exhibition at the main library, or appearing at the Enfield Town Month of Sundays.