

---

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have lived in Hadley Wood for 20 years and I value all the open spaces within and around Hadley Wood. The primary reason we bought our house in 2001 and was the greenness of the surrounding area despite its closeness to central London. In particular we were drawn to the locality as it is surrounded by Green Belt, which protects the unique character of the area. I therefore strongly object to the proposed site allocation, which would allow the development of 160 homes on Green Belt land.

Further:

1. The Hadley Wood meadows under threat are unique and not just some fields in the middle of nowhere. They are part of the established green belt in a single Area of Special Character across three boroughs. Further they are the setting for two Conservation Areas and their loss to a housing estate would greatly harm the heritage value of both Hadley Wood and Monken Hadley. Often when walking our dog back from the Hadley Wood Association fields we pause on Crescent West to take in the view over the fields – to build on them would in my view be desecration.
2. Parts of the land are flood zone 3 and this is the head valley of a main Enfield river which is liable to flood and needs to keep its riverside flood spaces. With Climate change the flood risk will only worsen.
3. It cannot be right to plan for the certain and irretrievable environmental loss of these special meadows for a few extra houses especially when there are other brownfield sites including many owned by the Council.
4. Hadley Wood is not a sustainable location for a new housing estate. The only primary school is already full with a long waiting list. There are few services, for example no GP, and only a small parade near the station. The trains are for London commuters and do not connect us with the borough. The bus at the station only provides a limited daytime service to Barnet and not the borough. Cars journeys by new residents will be essential, adding to traffic pollution and congestion, contrary to policies for cycling and walking and to the whole rationale for building near the station. Crescent East and West are already severely congested on work days – this proposed development will just add to the problem.
5. There is no indication of the Council having undertaken proper due diligence to determine the site is suitable and available, there is missing information in the Evidence Base, no heritage assessment and no landscape assessment. It is therefore difficult to comprehend how the Council could put forward this site.

