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Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to register my opposition to the proposal (Strategic Policy PL 10 – Chase Park) to build on protected Green Belt land in the Vicarage Farm land area between Enfield Road, Trent Park & Hadley Road.

#### Existing Green Belt Designation of Vicarage Farm Land

The Green Belt around London has been designated as protected land since the mid-1950s when it came into being to provide open space & to prevent urban sprawl. It is often referred to as “the Lungs of London”, & provides many benefits for the health & well-being of local communities. The Vicarage Farm land is designated as Green Belt land, & any change to that should be resisted.

#### Insufficient Development of “Brownfield” Sites Within the Borough

The National Planning Policy Framework contains strong protections for Green Belt land & states that a Green Belt boundary can be altered only in exceptional circumstances. Enfield Council should therefore only consider the development of Green Belt land when it is able to show that it has looked at all other reasonable alternatives to meet its development needs. The Council is not currently able to demonstrate this. It therefore follows that the Council should prioritise the development of all “Brownfield” sites within the Borough for the affordable & sustainable homes that Enfield’s growing population needs (for example around the Meridian Water development, etc) before it looks to build on designated Green Belt land.

#### Delivery of Affordable Housing Unlikely

Given the current buoyancy of the local housing market, it seems highly unlikely that the proposed development would have any effect on Enfield’s shortage of affordable homes for low-income families, & is more likely to benefit only the landowners & developers.

#### Already Overloaded Road Network in North-West Enfield

North-west Enfield is not well-served by existing major roads, indeed there is only a single major east-west route through Enfield – the A110 (Enfield Road). Having been a resident of North-west Enfield for 40 years, I have seen how the existing local road system has struggled to cope with the ever-increasing volume of traffic &, whenever there are traffic-light-controlled road works or issues on the M25, very long queues can quickly form on Enfield Road & can lead to the area becoming gridlocked. As a resident of Trentwood Side, access onto/from Enfield Road is already difficult at busy times of day, & this situation would become significantly worse should this proposal proceed. Houses built on the Vicarage Farm land would only add to vehicle numbers, as well as result in the Council failing to meet sustainability objectives, including the encouragement of walking & cycling.

### Use of Public Footpaths through Vicarage Farm Land

Public footpaths through the Vicarage Farm land, including the Merryhills Way, are well-used on a daily basis by walkers, dogwalkers, cyclists & runners, by individuals, small groups & families. This was particularly the case during the 2020/2021 lockdowns when many people enjoyed the freedom to walk in this beautiful local countryside, helping to maintain & improve both their physical & mental health.

### Destruction of Environment & Ecosystems

Farmland is rich in all forms of wildlife, so it seems entirely wrong that the Council should be considering the deliberate destruction of Green Belt land & its natural ecosystems, rather than protecting them for the benefit of all local residents. Once lost, the land & its wildlife cannot be reinstated.

I would therefore oppose any change to the designation of the Vicarage Farm land as anything other than Green Belt land.

Yours faithfully,