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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to put forward my strong objections to the Draft Local Plan for Enfield - specifically the proposals to build on Green Belt land.

I have already made my objections known in the survey via the Enfield Council website, but I am so incensed by these plans that I feel compelled to send an email as well.

I have never written to the council on any issue before, but this threat to our Green Belt land gives me enormous anxiety.

The current plans to build more than 6,000 homes on our beloved Green Belt land, on Vicarage Farm and throughout Crews Hill, would be a travesty. How could the Council do such a thing, knowing the permanence of this action and its dire consequences?

Enfield's Green Belt land is one of the main draws - if not THE main draw - of living in Enfield. These spaces provide a much-needed green, wild and quiet sanctuary amidst a sea of houses and flats. The spectacular views, beautiful countryside walks and relief from pollution is what convinced me and many others to live here, and getting rid of it would devalue many of the surrounding homes, drastically increase pollution, make the area more prone to flooding and negatively affect my and others' wellbeing.

This land was a saviour for me and many others during lockdown. My daughter is 4 months old, and one of the things I am most looking forward to is taking her on walks around this area. I can simply imagine her incredulity telling her in years to come that the Council decided to build on this land instead. I must ask: what is the point of the Green Belt if we are going to build on it? I was brought up in the borough with the assurance that this land would always be protected. Once it is gone, we cannot get it back - London will simply become a sprawling mess like so many other world cities, expanding further and further.

This Green Belt area is treasured by residents from across Enfield and Barnet - not just those who live near it. I understand the need for more housing in the Borough, but simply turning to this protected land and its profiteering landowners for all our answers is not the solution. As seen in the recently IPCC report, it flagrantly disregards the climate crisis and the environmental concerns we all face. This land is the lungs of Enfield, and it is wild spaces such as these that are crucial in combatting air pollution, not just in the Borough but across the whole of North London. We need to consider all other options for our housing needs instead, such as vertical housing, building on brownfield sites, making use of virtually unused office blocks, improving the conditions of existing housing, building around more urban stations, in car parks etc.

So many families with young children and elderly people have specifically chosen to make this place their home because of its greenery and its relatively clean air. All that building on this land would achieve is to make Enfield a less desirable place to live. It would be far better to increase access to these areas, encouraging our children to take healthy walks and experience nature - and indeed encouraging visitors from further afield, who would then contribute to the local economy and businesses. The LAST thing we should do is build upon these green spaces - the Council needs to find ways to enhance interactivity with residents across Enfield and the rest of London.

As we have recently seen, flooding is also a major and growing problem across London. These green areas are hugely instrumental in preventing flooding in the area. How much would it cost the Council in the future to deal with the recurring flooding of people's homes?

There is also an abundance of wildlife in these areas whose habitats would be destroyed. Throughout our lockdown walks, my partner and I alone have delighted in seeing badgers, voles, snakes and a huge variety of birds, just to name a few.

I am a Labour member, and it really pains me to see these proposals to build on Green Belt land put forward by Labour councillors. Again I must ask: what is the point of the Green Belt if we are going to build on it? I am deeply troubled that this land is under attack - I was brought up believing that it would always be protected, and it was why I chose to make Enfield my home. If these plans came to fruition, I would certainly have to cancel my Labour membership, and I would most likely try to move to another borough, such as neighbouring Barnet, which appears to value its Green Belt land more.

I beg of you: please abandon these plans entirely. Once we build on this land, we cannot get it back.

Yours faithfully,