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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to the following policies in the Enfield Local Plan 2019-2039: SP PL10, pages 80-87, and Figure 3.11; Policy SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3.10; Policy SA45: Land Between Camlet Way and Crescent Way, Hadley Wood, page 364; Policy SA54, page 374; and Policy SA62 page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279. All these policies propose removing the valuable Green Belt status of Enfield's beautiful surroundings, to make way for housing and other purposes.

While I understand the housing pressures the borough faces, I implore you to exhaust all other avenues before dedesignating Green Belt land. One of the things that makes Enfield such a wonderful place to live is the natural environment that surrounds it: rich, varied habitats, a stone's throw from the countryside, steeped in history. Their loss would not just be an environmental setback – particularly disheartening in the context of the recent IPCC report and the UK's COP presidency – but also damage the very community feeling.

During the pandemic, I have come to appreciate our outdoor spaces, the vicinity to the countryside, and all the associated health and wellbeing benefits even more. Like many Enfield residents, including many of its youngest, I value these outdoor spaces not just for their aesthetic value but also their recreational use and the memories I have there.

It's for this reason that I also object to Policies SA62 page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279 because they transfer part of Whitewebbs Park, a public amenity, into private management. This is a valuable community recreational space and was, when open, a very good golf course, making the game accessible to people who may not otherwise be able to enjoy it. It would be devastating to lose such a wonderful open space that has and continues to bring so much joy to so many.

The Local Plan sets out an ambition to 'maintain[s] and enhance[s] the quality of the many distinctive places that make up the borough'. I'd like to suggest that many of those distinctive places are what might be deemed as 'in between' places on the Green Belt – far from being unused land, these hold immense social and environmental value. 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.

Furthermore, if the ambition is to embrace sustainability and tackle climate change, surely this would be best done by enhancing and investing further in our existing green spaces, rather than building over them (even 'sustainable' housing is a far cry from a natural environment), and by exploring other locations, e.g. brownfield land, for housing. Indeed, the Plan itself asserts that Enfield is 'an attractive environment – over half the Borough is green or blue.' Must we compromise these valuable spaces, or will we only see just how important they are when they are gone?

