
Dear Sir/Madam,

My family and I moved into Hadley Wood in July 2020, and since then my youngest child has attended the local nursery and is entering Year 1 at Hadley Wood Primary School. We have also attended the Church, are active in our local neighbourhood watch, and have made a number of new friends in the community. My children in particular have made many friends, and the parks and green spaces of Hadley Wood are invaluable to their social lives. Hadley Wood is an area of great beauty and gives a unique opportunity to explore and enjoy nature whilst being within the M25. With this in mind we strongly object to the proposed site allocation, planned to allow the building of 160 homes on Green Belt land, for reasons I list below:

1. Unsuitable Selection: The considered ahead of Green Belt land, particularly as the planned houses are based on assumptive projections of housing needs in the area over an extended period (planned build in 10 years' time to meet an estimated need in 20 years' time). The loss to the environment of this land will be irretrievable, whereas other Brownfield sites will become available over the next decade, assuming the projections are accurate.
2. Not Sustainable Community Development: The Hadley Wood amenities cannot support this size of development.
 - a. The local primary school is already chronically over-subscribed and has only one form per year group. There is no parking around the school and drop-offs/pick-ups are difficult.
 - b. Hadley Wood is outside the catchment area of any local state secondary school.
 - c. There is a very limited bus service, and the train station serves a single line.
 - d. There are very few shops serving the area, with residents needing to travel into Barnet or Potters Bar for shopping.
 - e. Hadley Wood is covered by a very limited number of NHS GP/Health Centres in Potters Bar, and none in Barnet.
3. Impact on climate change and environment: Whilst not a huge area of land, it goes without saying that we have a responsibility to fight climate change and protect the environment, and this area contributes to offsetting carbon emissions from nearby areas, particularly the M25, and also helps protect against local flooding by absorbing rainwater and surface water from flooding of the nearby river. Reducing green areas should be actively discouraged as we become more aware of the acute impact of climate change and steps needed to offset the effect.

4. Unsuitable site selection: In relation to role this area plays in protecting against local flooding, this actually makes the site unstable as a housing development area, particularly the lower part which is in a flood area of the nearby river.

There are many other reasons for objection to this development such as the detrimental effect on the unique heritage landscape of the area, loss of space crucial to recreation, leisure and promotion of mental health and wellbeing, the support of wildlife from insects, plants and fauna to the horses that are currently kept nearby.

With all of these points in mind, can I urge the Council to remove this proposed site allocation from the upcoming Local Plan and retain its status as Green Belt.

Kind Regards