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I have lived in Hadley Wood for 28 years and am a member of the Hadley Wood Association. I moved here for reasons which included the surrounding Green Belt and the quality of the environment. I object strongly to this proposal for the following reasons.

1. The Green Belt is a local and national precious resource and should not be destroyed for reasons of expediency, profit and short sighted gain. Once built on it will be gone forever. We are facing a climate emergency and to remove this resource would be against all environmental policies and common sense. A new housing estate would set a precedent that could allow future further incursions and progressive environmental degradation.
2. Housing may be needed but we do not know how much in the light of EU nationals going back to their own countries following Brexit. In addition, our national birth rate is low and will be further reduced by this migration. We will also have unused office space due to changing work patterns resulting from COVID, as well as other brownfield resources to use. These should be the priority for development rather than the irrevocable destruction of a precious part of the environment.
3. The addition of extra properties to Hadley Wood has already been underway with more houses and flats. There has been no corresponding development of required additional infrastructure and services to account for this, let alone for the proposed population increase in this plan. There is no additional capacity in the local primary school and no nearby secondary provision. Transport links are in reality very limited-Trains in and out of London but not to other areas of the Borough where people might work. The local bus service is so limited as to be of no use to commuters. An essential worker living in one of the new properties would have to use a car with all the environmental consequences attached to this. How would a nurse travel to Barnet General or Chase Farm to work? Housing near such sites as well as other work centres is what is needed. Local shops are very limited so more car journeys would be needed for shopping. There is no local GP practice or NHS dentist. More car journeys to reach these.
4. In addition to greater vehicle use, the environment would be affected by more ground being covered by buildings. The meadows provide oxygen and drainage. The proposal to build near Monken Mead Brook could increase water flow with consequences for the station and local roads such as Parkgate where there is a history of flooding. Reduced surface absorption due to buildings rather than fields would also affect areas downstream of the Hadley Wood water catchment area.
5. For all the above reasons these proposals do not represent sustainable development. Rather, they are an opportunistic attempt to sell land and would detract from sustainable development in appropriate locations which could meet genuine housing need.

