
The paper “National Planning Policy Framework”, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, has the following to say about Green Belt land.

“The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt Policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land **permanently** open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their **permanence**”. My highlighting in bold.

“A local planning authority should regard the construction of new buildings as inappropriate in the Green Belt. Exceptions to this are:

- A. buildings for agriculture and forestry.
- B. The provision of appropriate facilities for outdoor sport, recreation, cemeteries and burial grounds and allotments...
- C. The extension or alteration of a building...
- D. The replacement of a building...
- E. Limited infilling in villages.
- F. Limited affordable housing for local community needs...
- G. Limited infilling or the partial or complete redevelopment of previously developed land...”

This paper stresses the permanence of the Green Belt and there are very few exceptions allowed.

Enfield Council's Blue and Green Strategy of June 2021 has the following to say:

Enfield Council wants to protect, manage and expand Enfield's network of blue and green assets – open green spaces and wetlands.

Some of the key projects include Enfield Chase with over 300 hectares of new publicly accessible woodland and rewilding initiatives. This is the very area where developers are planning to erect 5,000 buildings

No mention of turning existing green spaces into housing, or *urban sprawl*, as defined by the National Planning Policy Framework.

The New Enfield Local Plan states (section 2.1.16) “By improving Blue and Green Networks Enfield can make the most of opportunities to experience nature, becoming the gateway to a National Park City”.

Co-incidentally, people are worried about the *death* of town centres, with retail premises closing. One way to re-invigorate town centres would be to convert retail premises into residential properties. There are also many retail parks in the borough where businesses are losing customers. What better way to breathe life into town centres and retail/business parks than to have people living there?

This must not be by means of tower blocks, as recently proposed in Enfield town centre, nor in Cockfosters. Tower blocks rob areas of sunlight, cause high winds and alienate people from their neighbours and surroundings.

With climate change now all too evident, we need to be preserving the spaces between built-up areas. The Green Belt circulates fresh air round London and provides a conduit by which plants, insects and animals can move freely between countryside and town, keeping the town alive. Towns need a supply of plants and animals or they become sterile, they will no longer be alive. The Green Belt lands are the lungs of London; if they are blocked or removed, London will suffocate.