
Dear Enfield Council

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important consultation.

I am writing to object to the following Policies: 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; Policy SA52 page 372; and Policy SA62 page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279 – all of which propose the designation of Green Belt for housing and other purposes.

While I support housing development and support the ambition to meet Enfield's housing needs, I strongly object to the proposal to release Green Belt for housing or other purposes. I believe that there are alternatives available to meet housing targets and that the Green Belt is a precious resource that should be protected and preserved for future generations. It is too valuable to lose for all the many environmental, ecological, economic, public health and other reasons that have been identified, especially during the recent pandemic. 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.

A council that exercises its duty and privilege to protect the immense value the green belt within its jurisdiction provides will become an exemplar of a council that acts truly for the well-being of all its residents. The health and well-being characteristics of the brooks, woodlands, green spaces, wildlife and ecology that form Vicarage farm (Chase Park) are already the perfect definition of a positive relationship between the area adjoining the historic landscape at Trent Park and the urban areas that surround it. The ability to view vegetation and wildlife across these open spaces and the rising and setting of the sun on its horizon are equally as important as dense woodlands of Trent Park in creating the much-needed feeling of well-being and freedom from the anxiety of enclosed, built-up and pressurised surroundings. To enclose this well visited and walked sanctuary with dense building infrastructure, however sympathetic the design intention, in reality, will only have a negative impact on the well-being characteristic of this publicly accessible open space.

Unprotecting the green belt and further allowing development on this land will undeniably remove carbon dioxide absorbing vegetation acting locally to protect the impact of climate change and reduce the flood protection in the area and instead make available a currently protected area for contamination of carbon inherent fuels and materials used to extract, manufacture and transport building materials used for development. Once developed, the buildings will continue to contribute to the climate change impact through emissions associated with heat and power as well as the air quality pollutants associated with increased traffic. Even with the use of low carbon technologies, such as electrical vehicles and heat pumps, the impact

of increased electrical demand on the local power distribution network for large-scale developments will cause an increased detrimental impact, with frequent power losses suffered in the local Worlds End area and as recent as in the last three months. Offsetting these increased demands with renewable generation will bring about even greater volatility, by nature of the volatility of renewable generation and balancing supply with demand. With the impact of climate change becoming ever more evident around the world and Enfield Council's own acknowledgement of a climate emergency and its public commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040, it would be profoundly negligent of the council to do anything but protect and enhance the remaining green spaces within the council's jurisdiction.

A smart housing approach, balancing the completing objectives of Enfield Council should focus on unlocking development of brown field sites, repurposing of existing unused buildings, enforced repair and use of empty properties, working with private landlords and housing associations to improve quality and maximise the use of existing rental properties and development of new residential properties where connection to the district heating network from the London Energy waste plant in Edmonton is possible and made compulsory to limit demand and volatility on the power distribution network from unbalanced renewable generation required for offsetting. To build homes that can provide occupants a net zero carbon option, Enfield should work with Thames Water to develop floating solar PV farms on the reservoirs in the east of Enfield and use any waste bio gas from Deephams Sewage Treatment Site to generate renewable energy. Combining this with private wire connections, strategic large scale battery storage, water source heat pumps powered by renewable energy and district heat network heat storage facilities at industrial parks and housing developments along the river Lea to balance centralised and decentralised renewable power generation with local demand will add much needed resilience to the local power network and potentially reduce existing capacity issues. Local job development should be focused on helping local company's employ locally trained people to deliver energy efficiency and decentralised renewable retrofit technology to local homes and businesses making use of government grant funding to drive the local economy and provide local jobs for the next generation in a truly circular economy.

Planning for development on the green belt is the easy unbalanced 'now' answer for Enfield that will diminish our local valuable resources and generate ample legacy issues that cannot be undone once done. Instead, Enfield's leaders need to face up to their responsibility to protect the valuable assets we have, like our green belt and work smarter with large embedded organisations like Thames Water, London Energy, UK Power Networks and national businesses operating in Enfield as well as local business to maximise the value of their assets and skills and the space they occupy in Enfield to unlock the benefit for all Enfield residents now and in the future. Only by doing this can Enfield deliver the net zero housing needed not just for now but for the future in a sustainable way without sacrificing the great open spaces that Enfield residents already enjoy.

The comments provided in this response to the consultation are my own views.

Regards