
Dear Sirs

I object most strongly to proposals in the Draft Local Plan to allow large-scale development in several parts of the Metropolitan Green Belt: Specifically:-

> 3,000 new homes at Vicarage Farm that forms part of the open Green Belt countryside next to Trent Park (Policy SP PL 10, pages 80-87, and Figure 3.11).

Aside from destruction of important Green Belt land this would, in any event, be an inappropriate location for major residential development, with no public transport or local shops, so necessitating car ownership and travel, directly contrary to government policy. Brownfield land in urban areas, where often the infrastructure is already present, can provide properly affordable homes within reach of the Green Belt which can provide recreation and relief as it has done during the pandemic.

> 3,000 new homes at Crews Hill with potentially up to 7,500 new homes to the M25. (Policy SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3.10);

> 160 homes in Green Belt countryside at Hadley Wood (SA45: Land Between Camlet Way and Crescent Way, Hadley Wood, page 364)

In a letter to Members of Parliament for English Constituencies dated the 7th June 2016, Brandon Lewis, the Minister of State for Housing and Planning said “Green Belt boundaries should be adjusted only in exceptional circumstances, through the Local Plan process **and with the support of local people. We have been repeatedly clear that demand for housing alone will not change the Green Belt boundaries**”.

In a further letter dated 10th June 2016, Brandon Lewis stated “The Government is committed to maintaining strong protections for Green Belt. The National Planning Policy Framework makes it clear that inappropriate **development should only be allowed where very special circumstances exist and that Green Belt boundaries adjusted only in exceptional circumstances**, through the Local Plan process”.

One way of looking into the future is to look back. As Andrew Motion, poet, said: “Since about 1940, the population of Los Angeles has grown at about the same rate as the population of London. Los Angeles is now so enormous that if you somehow managed to pick it up and plonk it down on England, it would extend from Brighton on the south coast to Cambridge in the north-east. That’s what happens if you don’t have a green belt.”

It is at times when cities grow that land protection policies are most critical. At these times ideally land protections should be strengthened rather than weakened or abandoned.

Yours faithfully