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I am a resident of Hadley Wood, and have been so for approximately 13 years. I am also a member of the Hadley Wood Association and I am aware of their campaign to draw community-wide attention to the proposals in relation to the green belt land behind Crescent East and to vehemently oppose what is in the draft local plan concerning that land.

The purpose of this email is to add my support to that opposition.

We all know that local authorities are subjected to never-ending pressure from central government to satisfy more and more housing need. In Hadley Wood we see the results of yielding to that pressure in the tsunami of development that the last 10 years have brought by way of totally inappropriate forms of back garden development. As more and more people have decided to monetise their gardens that have found a willing ally in the LPA.

The current proposal, the destruction and development of an area of local green belt, is another species of public wrong-doing in response to government pressure. That wrongdoing takes two forms.

Firstly to fend off pressure by Pavlovian resort to green belt land is simply unimaginative and lazy planning.

Secondly the consequence of such lazy planning would be the creation of serious harm to the community of Hadley Wood.

The NPPF says HMG attaches great importance to green belts. If central government has that approach then it behaves local government to do the same. This proposal is epitome of abandoning the core principles behind the preservation of green belt which HMG regards as worthy of great importance.

The purpose behind the existence of green belts is to preserve local distinctions by preventing creeping merging of what were two distinct areas of occupation and to preserve settings and special local character by doing so.

A beneficial side product of the sanctity of green belt land is that it means LPAs do not become lazy and instead look to recycle brown field or other derelict land to meet housing targets.

Also, as we know, green belt land can only be encroached on for development where there are exceptional circumstances and the proposals are fully evidenced and justified. That threshold test cannot be met until the LPA has examined all other reasonable options.

In this instance it is clear that the threshold test has not been met, instead we simply have the easy option of casually taking away land which forms an integral part of the residential amenity of Hadley Wood residents.

That residential amenity consists not only of the visual aspect of that land rising as part of the very pleasing topography of the area but also as a barrier to flooding in the lower parts of Hadley Wood as it is an effective part of a larger area acting as a soak for rainfall.

The proposal is, in addition, unsustainable. Hadley Wood, for all its visual attraction as a semi-rural setting for almost a village way of life, is poorly served in terms of transport, schools and retail.

The bus service in and out of Hadley Wood is pitiful. The train station is a victim of its monopolistic position in that it is so needed it creates terrible parking issues particularly on Crescents East and West which are turned into single-storey carparks each day.

The addition in one fell swoop of hundreds of new residents to Hadley Wood will unquestionably overwhelm

an already struggling transport infrastructure, bring many, many car-dependant families to the locality, drown the local roads, create danger and chaos and destroy the character of the area.

It is in simple terms a recipe for local disaster, and it is all so easily avoidable by the LPA doing what the voters of Enfield expect of it and look carefully and thoroughly for available land to develop and leave all green belt, not just that in Hadley Wood, to carry out its essential purpose.

This proposal is misconceived and must not go forward.