

Subject: Draft Local Plan - Site SA45 – Building on Green Belt Land between Camlet Way and Crescent West, Hadley Wood

I have lived in Hadley Wood since 1992, for nearly 30 years, and am strongly committed to the community. I am a member of the Hadley Wood Association, have been on the committee of the Hadley Wood Rail Users Group and was a Parent Governor of Hadley Wood School for several years. I am a member of the local Church. My three children attended the local playgroup and Hadley Wood Primary School.

I regularly walk with my family, friends and our dogs in the green spaces within Hadley Wood and have increased my walking and knowledge of the local area during Covid lockdown. I was a co-organiser of Hadley Wood Sports Day for several years, using the HWA field adjacent to Bartrams Lane. I was attracted to the locality as it is surrounded by Green Belt, protecting the special character of the area.

I am therefore writing to object to the proposed site allocation in the draft local plan, which proposes the development of 160 homes on Green Belt land in Hadley Wood. I have a number of significant concerns:

1. FLOODING

The proposed construction will inevitably lead to more flooding, a well know problem in this area.

Many mature trees will be felled in the plans, exacerbating the effect of excavation and construction.

Drainage and sewers are already inadequate. The proposed area is the head valley of a main Enfield river which is liable to flood and needs to keep its riverside flood spaces. The area will be highly affected by surface water run-off issues within the site and downstream within Hadley Wood.

2. ADVERSE EFFECT on FLORA and FAUNA.

Felling of trees and building works will destroy the habitat of many birds, animals, insects and other creatures. Many plants and trees will be destroyed.

3. POLLUTION and LOSS OF GREEN SPACE

As a Paediatrician, I am very concerned about this adverse effect of increased pollution from traffic during building works and afterwards.

4. LOSS OF GREEN BELT.

The Green Belt must be protected and conserved. In Hadley Wood it serves vital purposes including separation from Barnet and Potters Bar, helping air quality in the borough and biodiversity. It cannot be right to plan to destroy this Green Belt, directly contrary to all green and climate change policies. We should be protecting and conserving our remaining green spaces now and for future generations.

5. DEVELOPMENT NOT SUSTAINABLE.

Amenities and infrastructure would require significant investment and improvement to accommodate the increase in the number of residents. Hadley Wood has no local healthcare, shopping, bank, post office or general leisure facilities for the public. The single local nursery and school are very popular and at full capacity already. Local public transport is poor and unreliable: the single bus runs hourly five times a day only and not at all on sundays. People need to rely on their cars and local roads to and from Hadley wood are already extremely busy, often with traffic jams at peak times.

I am therefore writing to ask for you please to remove this proposed site allocation from the next edition of the Local Plan and retain the green belt status for the land in Hadley Wood.