

From: [Juliet Barnett](#)
To: [LocalPlan](#)
Subject: Draft local Plan 2021
Date: 08 September 2021 09:25:34

On behalf of the Trent park Conservation Committee I wish to make the following objections to the proposed draft local plan.:

You have identified key sites of Green Belt as ‘medium growth’ areas such as Vicarage farm SP PL 10 (p80-87) and Crews Hill SP PL9 (P77-80) as well as Holly Hill farm and areas in Hadley Wood- all part of the historic Enfield Chase - a unique and an extremely valuable and rare landscape asset. This is part of the very fabric of the heritage of Enfield, being shown on a map of the area in 1777 showing it as a royal hunting ground and being connected to Enfield Old Park (which is mentioned in the Doomsday book). Building on this area would destroy this and would completely change the character of the area that so many local communities value. it would be a betrayal of protection for future generations to enjoy. The draft local plan talks of growth being respectful but the proposal to build on this Green belt area shows no respect for the heritage or for local communities living nearby. The New Development Heritage strategy talks of respecting settings and local history - where is this strategy policy as far as respecting this important Green Belt area? There are many brownfield sites and previously built on land in the London Borough of Enfield that could be explored further as sites for development.

Another idea that could be explored is creating local food production on sites such as Vicarage farm - growing and eating food locally would help to create a more environmentally friendly and sustainable future. Crews Hill is an important horticultural area with garden centres visited by many of the local community and from people further afield. Why not expand on this aspect of this area, again making a more environmentally friendly and sustainable future here.

On June 26 at the London mayor’s question time, Sadiq Khan particularly emphasised the importance of the Green Belt areas of London calling them the ‘lungs of the city’ and contributing to improving clean air for London. He stressed his commitment to working with boroughs to preserve it and also that Green Belt should only be built on in exceptional circumstances. He said that allowing development on Green Belt could cause harm and restrict publicly accessible green space, highlighted by the pandemic as being so important for everyone’s wellbeing. He expressly said that he was not happy with Enfield’s draft local plan’s dedesignation of Green Belt land. In accordance with the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the council has a duty of care to protect Green Belt land and take it out of any identified growth areas in a local plan.

Andrew Scott, planning advisor to Robert Jenrick, the housing minister, has said ‘The Government is committed to protecting and enhancing Green Belt’.

The Tall Buildings policy (DM DE6) in sensitive areas such as Enfield Town Centre (p156-160 and p 321) will spoil the town centre conservation area and also it’s character. Enfield is a small market town and will be spoilt by a huge tower block dominating it’s centre. It is not an inner city centre where this type of building would be more appropriate. The height of these tall buildings being suggested is bad for climate change and bad for people’s well being. Past experiences of tower blocks have shown that having to live in one of these buildings often lead to poor mental and physical health and fear for personal safety. This was especially highlighted in the pandemic. Areas that were deemed inappropriate for tall buildings in the past, such as Cockfosters’ Station car park , have suddenly become appropriate. The character of the area is still the same so why change this?

We fear that there will be less safeguards when it comes to being a scrupulous builder,

particularly with the new Government planning laws coming into effect. In our experience, developers often apply for big changes, once the initial planning application has been granted. Some developers forge ahead with unapproved building and apply for permission retrospectively. Unfortunately, The London Borough of Enfield's Enforcement Team is practically non-existent and not fit for purpose so we would have no faith that developers will behave appropriately. It is the developers who will get rich and benefit the most, not the communities of Enfield!!

Finally, we would like to highlight the misleading comments made in the draft Local Plan, implying that the London National Park City supported the proposals to build on Green Belt land in Enfield. They state that planning policies must improve life in London, including protecting and restoring nature and not finding ways to justify choices to allow erosion of this.

Yours Sincerely

Juliet Barnett
Chair of the Trent park Conservation Committee