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I apologise for the lateness of my response to the Enfield Council's consultation on its Local Plan. Like many other people I had a number of holidays and family visits carried over from 2020 because of Covid. However, I have been aware of the main features of the Council's Local Plan and have now had the chance to read the full document.

I fully understand the need to provide more housing in the London area and the pressure this places on the London Boroughs to identify areas suitable for housing developments. However, just as pressing is the need to conserve the green spaces in and around London as the 'clean healthy lungs' for residents in the context of increasing evidence of the continuing negative health effects of pollution and of the wider macro-context of the global environmental threat we all face. These are the wider issues in which the Local Plan must be considered.

At the more local level, the Council must also consider the effect some of the proposals in the Local Plan will have on the attractiveness and desirability of Enfield to potential residents as well as those currently living here. Research from experts in urban and economic geography, and social and economic geography clearly indicates the benefits of a mixed economy and a mixed population for economic development and the social harmony of areas. The Council has made much of its plans for regenerating the Enfield Town area badly hit by economic downturn and the trend towards online shopping accelerated by the Covid lockdowns. If the Council changes the attractive conservation character of the Town by its plans for out-of-proportion tall buildings (Policy DE6 and SA2) it will drive away the very residents and visitors who would be able to sustain and support its economic development objectives. This would have consequences for the dependence of the local council on its tax revenue from both residents and businesses.

Enfield has a reputation of being one of the greenest boroughs in London, protected by the Green Belt and this is another reason for the appeal of Enfield. Enfield Chase, for example, is a *Heritage Area of Special Character*, with historical roots in the hunting ground of English kings, and fine buildings of historic and architectural significance, both large and small. It also is an extremely rare and valuable green landscape accessible for people to enjoy from all parts of Enfield and beyond. During this depressing period of the pandemic with its various types of lockdown, the evidence of the value to mental health and wellbeing of contact and immersion in different natural habitats has been undeniable. During this time, those of us able to escape from the confines of home, and take walks along the wildlife rich wooded and open paths in our pleasant Enfield parks and countryside, saw visible confirmation of the scientists' conclusions on the cheery faces of the families we met on the way. Yet, the *Enfield Characterisation Study* (2011) which describes and assesses in detail the environmental value of this area and the harm that dense forms of urbanisation would have on it, has been excluded from the list of Local Plan evidence studies. High quality countryside was not what the Mayor of London meant in The London Plan in potentially allowing development on 'derelict and unsightly' parts of the Green Belt (para 8.2.2). None of the designated areas in the Council's Local Plan for Enfield Chase can, at any stretch of the imagination, be described as 'derelict and unsightly'. In my view and that of many others, Strategic Policy PLB: Rural Enfield (SP, PL9, SP PL10, SA45 and SA54) would cause very high harm to open Green Belt

countryside, so rare in the London area, and the coherence of the linkages between the different parts of the Enfield Chase heritage, each with their own character. To endorse this level of destruction of a beautiful and healthy green and historic landscape with the concept of a 'National Park City' is downright disingenuous. These proposals would turn the Enfield Chase wider area into just another overdeveloped, soul-less, characterless, urban nonentity, no different from thousands of other ill-considered victims of development at any cost.

It is incomprehensible why the Council fails to include in the Plan brown-field regeneration opportunities in the borough, specifically within the Lea Valley. It appears that these are to be regarded as protected 'Strategic Industrial Land' despite the fact that this area has lain fallow for decades and there is no evidence of a queue of industrialists desperate to exploit it. Responses to the Plan have identified several areas, such as Herbert Road, Meridian Water East Bank and Brimsdown, with considerable potential for a mixed use masterplan, combining housing, employment opportunities and leisure facilities. As we have seen in east London boroughs around the River Lea, riverlands can provide exciting opportunities for innovative, aesthetically pleasing and environmentally-friendly mixed use developments. I was for some time a trustee on the board of a regeneration charity involved in these developments. I believe interest has been expressed by Areli Real Estate in investing in such a waterfront plan in Brimsdown. With housing comes the need for schools, health centres and commercial retail, thus providing the desirable but elusive employment provision which this part of Enfield so desperately needs. It is also close to major transport networks necessary for the warehousing and distribution that the Council is keen to attract. Housing development in this area would also afford families access to the nearby attractive green open spaces of the Lea Valley Regional Park with its many facilities for sport, leisure and active lifestyles, as well as its contribution to the quality of the environment and biodiversity.

My husband and I have lived and worked in Enfield for almost all our lives. My husband ran a successful business in Edmonton. Our children were born and went to school here and one has settled his family here and has his practice in Enfield. We identify with Enfield; we like living here, and we make full use of its many amenities. I am not averse to change. I would love to see the economy of Enfield Town alive and bustling, with a pluralistic mixture of independent shops, cafes and evening restaurants, and an independent cinema. Other small 'towns-in-cities' have achieved this. Not by throwing away valuable assets but by conserving them and blending them into new, well designed and aesthetically attractive features.

I urge Enfield Council to re-consider these proposals in its Local Plan. Once gone, the Green Belt environment can never be recovered.