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## Objections to Enfield Council Green Belt Development Plans

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

I have been a regular visitor to Hadley Wood for more than 12 years since my son and his family moved to Crescent West. I value all the green spaces within Hadley Wood and particularly the area of field, and woodland opposite Crescent West where my young grandsons and I walked, played football and discovered nature in the locality and explored wider into the Green Belt woods and fields as my grandsons grew older. Hadley Wood is surrounded by Green Belt, which protects the special character of the area. I therefore **strongly object** to the proposed site allocation, which would allow the development of 160 homes on Green Belt land.

**1. NOT A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LOCATION.** Amenities and infrastructure would require significant investment and improvement to accommodate a meaningful increase in the number of residents: Hadley Wood lacks enough schools, healthcare, shopping and leisure facilities. Other than the station Hadley Wood lacks public transport. It is a car-dependent location, and key roads are already very busy.

**2. THE HOUSING and PLANNING ACT 2016: under the Act building for any new housing is generally banned in the Green Belt unless it is under exceptional reasons. Local planning Authorities May authorise building only if it is for providing affordable housing and even this on its own is not enough reason to gain approval for construction.** Green Belt must be protected and conserved in North West Enfield where 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 Belt spaces now and for future generations.

**3. PLAN WILL DESTROY OUR UNIQUE HERITAGE LANDSCAPE.** The Hadley Wood meadows under threat are unique. They are part of the established Green Belt in a single Area of Special Character across three boroughs. They are in the middle of a green corridor from Barnet through to the farms north and east of Hadley Wood, providing visual harmony for many walkers and cyclists. They are the setting for two Conservation Areas and their loss to a housing estate would greatly harm the heritage value of both Hadley Wood and Monken Hadley.

**4. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY. REPORT BY CPRE AND NATURAL ENGLAND 2010 (ISBN9978-184754-195-6)**

. This report emphasised how in the climate crisis the Green Belt reduces the heat island effect of a city like London, providing a cooling function for a wider area. Natural landscapes allow rain water to reach the water table and the area area of proposed development. The area proposed for development is the hard valley of a main Enfield river which is liable to flood and needs to keep its riverside flood spaces. Plants absorb carbon dioxide and Green Belt areas are a vital storage resource for carbon storage. Enfield comes under the London Plan 2nd March 2021, this mandates Whole Life Carbon Assessments to meet net zero commitments. London Plan. Mayor of London. Published by GLA. 2nd March 2021.

**5. NOT A SUSTAINABLE SITE.** The site should not be allocated for 160 houses on this sloping and sensitive site in the setting of Hadley Wood Conservation Area. The area of proposed development is also used as a recreational place for football, dog walking, running and exercise for local residents.

**6. UNCLEAR CRITERIA.** It is not clear how Enfield Council have concluded that the fields should be removed from the Green Belt and developed for residential housing. There is no indication of the Council having undertaken proper due diligence to determine the site is suitable and available, there is missing information in the Evidence Base, no heritage assessment and no landscape assessment, no Whole Life Carbon Assessment and it is acknowledged that there are no adequate essential local services. It is therefore difficult to comprehend how the Council could put forward this site.

For the above reasons I urge you to please remove this proposed site allocation from the next edition of the Local Plan and retain the green belt status for the land.