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### **Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important consultation. I tried to fill in the questionnaire on your website but found it extremely difficult and was put off by the language and maps which did not seem to make sense to me so will you please ignore the few questions I answered and take this submission as my response to your proposals. I tried to delete what I had written but the system wouldn't let me!

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I am writing to object to the following Policies: SP PL10, pages 80-87, and Figure 3.11; Policy SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3.10; Policy SA45: Land Between Camlet Way and Crescent Way, Hadley Wood, page 364; Policy SA54, page 374; Policy SA52 page 372; and Policy SA62 page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279 – all of which propose the dedesignation of Green Belt for housing and other purposes.

Most of these sites are part of historic Enfield Chase, which played an important role in the development of Enfield. The remaining parts of the Chase are unique in the southeast and a rare and valuable landscape asset. The loss of these sites would cause permanent harm not only to the Green Belt, but also to the very character of the borough. Vicarage Farm is crossed by the Merryhills Way footpath, much-used by Enfield residents and others for exercise and relaxation and the physical and mental health attributes of the footpath would be destroyed by development. The farmland could be put back into productive use growing local food for local people. The Forty Hall produce shop shows how this is viable. Crews Hill is equally important to the borough and should not be destroyed. Its garden centres and other businesses provide employment and a resource for people from Enfield and beyond. Instead of losing Crews Hill for housing, its horticultural activities should be encouraged and enhanced so that it can once again be a hub for food and plant production. I was particularly concerned to hear about the proposal to astro turf 40 acres of the Whitewebbs golf course. Seventy years ago a very wise council purchased Whitewebbs for the use and enjoyment of the local population and I believe it should remain as such.

While I support housing development and support the ambition to meet Enfield's housing needs, I strongly object to the proposal to release Green Belt for housing or other purposes. I believe that there are alternatives available to meet housing targets and that the Green Belt is a precious resource that should be protected and preserved for future generations. It is too valuable to lose for all the many environmental, ecological, economic, public health and other

reasons that have been identified, especially during the recent pandemic. The Council has a duty of care for the Green Belt, in accordance with the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF], and any intentions to release parts of it should be taken out of the local plan. The pandemic has generated an increase in the desire to go out into the countryside and enjoy nature, proving a life saver for many people in the borough. The proposals in the draft local plan to use our green belt for housing would damage that and be to the detriment of the mental health of the people of this borough. This is why I am particularly concerned about your proposals.

The comments provided in this response to the consultation are my own views.