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I recognise the acute housing shortage in the Borough of Enfield and the need for well designed, well located affordable and social housing, especially for families with outside space.

My objections centre on two key areas of proposed policy: the threats to parts of the Green Belt and remains of the historically important Enfield Chase and the encouragement of the construction of tall buildings in the historic hearts of the Borough.

Policies relating to the Green Belt:

PL9 Crews Hill (pp77-80), PL10 "Chase Park"(pp80-87), DM RE1 Overall Green Belt and open countryside (pp262-3) together with the specific areas of SA27 (p316), SA28 (p316), SA30 (p317), SA31 (p317), SA35 (p317), SA45 (p364), SA48 (p317), SA52 (p372), SA54 (p317), SA57 (p317), SA62 (pp320-383).

Building on the Green Belt will not help young people locked out of the housing market and will impoverish the environment and quality of life for all. Urban sprawl of which this would be a part is a huge threat to climate change with the loss of farming and wildlife, a significant decrease in biodiversity and increased car use, all at a time of climate emergency. This would be a tragedy for Enfield and its current and future inhabitants.

Policies relating to tall buildings

DE6 (pp156-160); SA2 Palace Gardens (p321), SA3 100 Church Street (p322) and those centred around the stations at Enfield Chase, Palmers Green, Oakwood, Arnos Grove and Cockfosters (SA31, p350).

The Council has not learned the lessons of what has happened in Edmonton since the 1950s with its high, densely packed buildings and lack of outdoor space, especially for families, Nor has it taken into account the impact of the pandemic on the mental well being of people who have been forced to live and work in small flats in tower blocks lacking outside space. It is likely that the current impact on working practices will fundamentally change the way people wish to live and hence the type and location of housing..

Building on brownfield sites should remain the priority providing they are well designed, well located and sympathetic to the surrounding environments, especially in terms of height and density. Housing needs to be low level, on a human scale, adaptable and an integral part of the local environment. Destroying the historic, cultural and environmental character of the borough through encouraging tall, dense buildings will not serve the people of Enfield well, either now or in the future.