
Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

I take this opportunity to respond to this important consultation.

I am writing to object to the following:-

- Policy SP PL10, pages 80-87 and Fig 3.11
- Policy SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Fig 3.10: land between Camlet Way and Crescent West, Hadley Wood, page 364
- Policy SA54 page 374
- Policy SA62 page 372
- Policy SA62 page 383 and SP CL pages 277-279

all of which propose the use of designated Green Belt land for housing purposes

All these sites are within the area of the historic Enfield Chase, which played an important role in the development of Enfield. The parts of the original Enfield Chase which remain are unique in the SouthEast of England, and represent a rare and valuable landscape asset. If they are lost now, they will be lost forever – a loss to our children, their children, and to successive generations of local residents. This loss will not only permanently damage London's Green Belt, but will also affect the character of the whole borough.

As a local resident and regular user of this space, I particularly oppose the loss of the Vicarage Farm site. Until 2013 this land was used for agricultural purposes, and there is no reason why this use could not be restored. The land is crossed by the Merryhills Way footpath, and is adjacent to Trent Country Park. It is widely used by Enfield residents, their dogs (including mine), and others for exercise and relaxation; the attractiveness of the footpath would be lost forever if it ran alongside a housing estate. One has only to look at the way Trent Park is being disfigured by the Berkeley Homes development to see evidence of this. The farmland could be put back into productive use growing food for Enfield people. The Council need to be aware that this is a well-used facility enjoyed by, though not confined to, local residents. Other spaces should be considered rather than this specific Green Belt land. It should also be noted that both the Vicarage Farm site, and the Green Belt land to the south of Enfield Road (over which, currently, Fairview New Homes have an option to purchase) can only be accessed from Enfield Road itself. As the Council will be aware, this is a very busy main road, providing, *inter alia*, the most direct route between much of Enfield and the nearest A&E facilities at Barnet Hospital. The need for construction traffic to access both sites (to remove top- and sub-soil from construction areas; to deliver building materials; for cranes and other slow-moving equipment to enter/leave the sites) will create delays at all times during the working day. Council Members may wish to reflect on whether they would wish themselves (or members of their families) to be in an ambulance being delayed on Enfield Road.

The Council has a statutory duty to care for the Green Belt – see both the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Any proposals to change the usage of part of it should be taken out of the local plan.

These are my own views, provided, as a local resident, in response to this consultation.