



4/9/21

Enfield Draft Local Plan,

I am writing to provide comments on the latest draft of the Local Plan, on behalf of Enfield Sport.

I have attached the previous comments that I sent through to you, given that the vast majority of them remain relevant and valid, and given that they have not been taken in to account in the latest draft of the Local Plan. In fact I did not receive a reply to my previous letter and I have no idea whether the comments were considered before the latest draft was produced.

Enfield Sport has a number of concerns about the latest version of the Local Plan, which include:

1. The fact that the draft Local Plan does not confirm or restate the commitments that the Council has signed up to (at Cabinet) in relation to the protection of playing fields in the borough. A brief statement in the relevant Planning Policy in the draft Local Plan would address this issue in a simple and effective way. Enfield Sport would propose that the following statement is included in Policy SI 3: "Enfield Council supports the protection of playing fields and sports facilities, as set out in the Council' Playing Pitch Strategy". To not include such a statement, when it would be very easy to do so, would indicate that the Council is not really committed to protecting playing fields and sports facilities, which would be a major concern to Enfield Sport;
2. The draft Local Plan needs to describe and explain the importance of community sports provision and the role of sports clubs in the borough, in terms of improving the quality of life of residents, promoting health and well-being, facilitating social cohesion, providing positive activities for young people, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and, in the east of the borough, helping to address poverty and inequality. The draft Local Plan makes virtually no reference to these important issues and a stronger statement needs to be included which makes it clear that the Council supports the provision of community sports facilities and the role that sports clubs play in the borough;
3. The draft Local Plan makes no reference to the important role that the Council owned leisure facilities play in the borough and the importance of continuing to provide such facilities (for the same reasons that are set out in point 2 above);

4. The draft Local Plan appears to support the development of various open spaces in the borough where playing fields are located, including Firs Farm Playing Fields and Churchfield Recreation Ground (where cemeteries are proposed) and St Ann's School playing fields. In addition the draft Local Plan does not refer to the importance of retaining Bull Lane playing fields as a strategically important site in the south of the borough, which is a densely populated and deprived part of the borough, lacking sports facilities and playing fields provision: it should do so;

5. The draft Local Plan makes no reference to indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facilities, including playing fields, in the list of service areas that will benefit from developer funding through the Community Interest Levy (CIL) and Section 106 funding (see D1 on page 305); despite the fact the Council has separately said that this is a potential source of funding for sports clubs (see Tim Harrison's presentation notes for the Enfield Sport meeting that took place on 15/7/21). This anomaly needs to be addressed by including a reference to "indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facilities, including playing fields" in the list of service areas that could receive CIL and Section 106 funding.

In addition to the specific concerns highlighted above, I can advise that Enfield Sport is submitting a "Call for Sites" for Firs Farm playing fields (see the enclosed document). The document is being submitted because Enfield Sport has concerns about the Council's failure to refurbish or re-provide the changing facilities at the site, which are key to ensuring that outdoor sport is played on the playing fields. Enfield Sport also supports the "Call for Sites" relating to Enfield Playing Fields, which is due to be submitted by Enfield Ignatians Rugby Club.

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this letter and that Enfield Sport's comments will be properly considered before the next version of the Local Plan is produced.

Yours sincerely