

It was with great shock and disappointment when I heard about the forthcoming proposals for possibly 5000 new homes on green field sites in our borough of Enfield.

We live in Hadley Road and would be greatly affected by these plans if they were to come to fruition. One of the main reasons we moved to this location was the views and green areas that make this part of Enfield so attractive an invitation for walkers, cyclists and the like to enjoy.

It is constantly in the news how important it is that emissions and pollution are reduced with policies to promote this in place not the opposite.

At the recent council meeting in June there were some councillors extolling the virtues of equalisation NOT to improve the poorer areas but to make the nice greener areas into urban monstrosities. There is no practical logic in this way of thinking as in all cases you endeavour to keep high standards and improve poorer areas where possible.

Although we are aware that the council hasn't been meeting its London plan targets of 1246 new homes a year by dissecting some of the most beautiful spots in Enfield is not the answer. The Meridian project was originally targeted for 10,000 new homes which now has reduced to 5000 has still not been given the go ahead which would solve a large part of the deficit. Not only that there are numerous other brownfield sites and many shopping areas that have been decimated by the pandemic with the change in trading trends that could be explored.

We are not prepared for the demands that all these proposed new homes would bring to doctor's surgeries, hospital facilities, road erosion, pollution, vehicle noise, school enrolments, and many other casualties of policies that just have not been thought through properly, and other more desirable possibilities that have been sidelined or simply ignored.

Enfield is a wonderful borough which can boast some of the most panoramic views in north London. To lose this would be a catastrophe with far-reaching consequences as once "it's gone it's gone" and this would precipitate a further decline in our green belt with developers taking over, and additional money-making projects tempting councillors to take the easy option but not the right one.

Now is the time to re-evaluate our priorities and make the correct choices and decisions that will affect generations to come. Keep Enfield green and keep it a borough that we are all proud of and one that will enhance and enrich all our lives.