
Green belt development at Crews Hill and Chase

I'm dismayed at the Enfield draft local plan which proposes to build houses on greenbelt land around Crews Hill and on the countryside between Oakwood and Enfield town.

London's suburbs stretch 20 miles south of Enfield, the largest urban mass in the UK. The greenbelt provides an extremely valuable break from this, both psychologically and environmentally. Surely it doesn't make sense to simply extend it further, filling in the borough's green spaces towards the M25?

Why isn't the council fighting to protect these green spaces for the residents of Enfield, or at least coming up with some more creative proposals? The green belt has been protected for decades and it doesn't make sense to start urbanising it now, in particular with the recent increases in 'working from home' which means many people no longer need to be within close commuting distance to London. Has this been considered in the plans?

I accept that there is a strong demand for housing however there are plenty of brownfield sites inside the M25 which could be used instead. There are also vast areas of agricultural land outside the M25 which could be used and which few people would miss. For example locating these houses near Cuffley or Bayford would make more sense as these locations have plenty of green space, are sparsely populated and are located on the Hertford to Moorgate train line, so access times to London would be pretty similar.

As the south east of England becomes more urbanised, there is the future potential to convert the green belt into a National Park, which I think would be a great idea. Also converting green belt land to forest would offset the carbon dioxide generated by the borough and soak up some of the air pollution generated by London (which we now know causes numerous deaths). By instead building housing estates, the council is denying future generations of these opportunities and also worsening air pollution in the borough with the increase in car numbers.

I think the council is really letting the residents down by not defending Enfield's precious green belt.

I have voted Labour in the past but if these proposals are put into effect, then I won't be voting labour in future local elections.

I'd also like to mention that the consultation document was far to long and detailed in my

opinion and the questionnaire had far too many questions, most of which were very hard to interpret. I'd be surprised if anyone would have had time to read through it all and fill it in.