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**Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021**

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Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important consultation.

I am writing to object to the following Policies: SP PL10, pages 80-87, and Figure 3.11; Policy SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3.10; Policy SA45: Land Between Camlet Way and Crescent Way, Hadley Wood, page 364; Policy SA54, page 374; Policy SA52 page 372; and Policy SA62 page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279 – all of which propose the de-designation of Green Belt for housing and other purposes.

My objections are:

I am deeply concerned about the scale of the development set in the proposal. The Draft Local Plan is set to unleash a housebuilding plan, the scale of which has not been seen since the early 1930's.

The scale of development on the Vicarage Farm and Crews Hill sites is comparable to adding capacity of two small towns to an already overcrowded borough which does not have the resources or infrastructure to cope with these developments.

The de-designation of Green Belt land which has been protected since the end of the Second World War would mean a permanent loss of valuable landscape asset and will harm and change the character and geographical look of the borough permanently and sadly not for the better. During the Covid lockdown, the areas designated for de-designation were crowded with people using this asset. We should proactively be using this valuable asset to enhance the area; these areas can be used as community farms/projects to produce local food/produce, products and jobs which is something that this area badly needs. Instead we have had a developer sitting on this land for many years who has purposefully not been using this farmland productively (Vicarage Farm).

The Vicarage Farm and Crews Hill areas are also a sanctuary for wildlife both rare and common. In the years walking these areas I have been lucky to see wildlife such as Barn Owls, Badgers, Deer, Foxes, Kingfishers, Red Kites, Buzzards, Kestrels, Cuckoos, Wheatears, Hobbys, Little Egrets and Kingfishers and much more, all this flora and fauna would be lost if the planning proposal went ahead.

The proposal at Vicarage Farm does not sit well due the fact that this farm was bought by a well-

known property developer around 10-12 years ago. The land was sold at an agricultural price, if sold for development the land price is worth 10x or more, how are the residents of Enfield going to benefit from this woeful speculation. The farm has been degraded for the last 5-6 years in what I can only say has been part of a long-term plan to force planning on this greenbelt site. The farm is crisscrossed by popular public footpaths and the area is geographically a run off for Merryhills and Salmons Brook watercourses. These two waterways form a natural funnel for run off after heavy rain. This has caused many flooding incidents locally and further down the watercourse historically, building on this land will cause many more flood issues not only locally but downstream

The Whitewebbs Park proposal also does seem underhand, we have a football club worth billions proposing to take over and adding to their existing land portfolio to the detriment of a public asset which was the golf course which was established back in the 1920's.

The scale of the development at Crews Hill is also far too large and again will be totally out of character for the area. The area currently houses one of the largest gardening/plant associated industries in the South East of the country.

Its garden centres and other businesses provide employment and a resource for people from Enfield and beyond. Instead of losing Crews Hill for housing, its horticultural activities should be encouraged and enhanced so that it can once again be a hub for food and plant production. Residents from near and far flocked to this area during the Covid lockdown purchasing , plants, landscaping materials as a mental release from the affects of the lockdown.

The scale of the development will create more choke points on the road system leading out and into the borough. We are all totally aware that an accident on the M25 in the junctions 24/25 already gridlocks the area, add an increase of 30-50K extra residents and the traffic blight will be unbearable.

The existing infrastructure including schools, doctors, hospitals are woefully under-resourced for the current population, where are the guarantees for these resources for Draft Local Plan?

\*Are the associated financial dealings linked to this Local Plan going to be transparent and open to scrutiny for the Enfield residents and the general public because if the proposal does go ahead they certainly should be.

Most of these sites are part of historic Enfield Chase, which played an important role in the development of Enfield. The remaining parts of the Chase are unique in the southeast and a rare and valuable landscape asset, providing sanctuary for wildlife and residents alike. While I support housing development and support the ambition to meet Enfield's housing needs, I strongly object to the proposal to release Green Belt for housing or other purposes. I believe that there are alternatives available to meet housing targets and that the Green Belt is a precious resource that should be protected and preserved for future generations. It is too valuable to lose for all the many environmental, ecological, economic, public health and other reasons that have been identified, especially during the recent pandemic. The Council has a duty of care for the Green Belt, in accordance with the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF], and any intentions to release parts of it should be taken out of the local plan.

The comments provided in this response to the consultation are my own views.  
An Enfield resident