

Subject: Draft Local Plan - Site SA45 (Land between Camlet Way and Crescent West, Hadley Wood) and Intensification Zone around Hadley Wood station

I am writing to express my profound concern and strong objection to the proposed development in Hadley Wood on the green belt land.

I have lived in Hadley Wood for over 14 years and in the Borough for almost 50 years. I believe the plan would be a tragic destruction of some of the most important green space in the locality.

Once Green Belt is built on it can never be recovered. This is a one-way journey to destroying precious spaces for people and for nature. There simply **MUST** be better places to build. I also worry about the precedent we will be creating. How much more of our green space will be given over to construction projects.

While I applaud the thrust of putting residential development near to public transport infrastructure, it is inevitable that property owners in the area would own cars - it is after all a rural location - which would add to the existing congestion and related pollution. Building on Green Belt is the wrong solution.

I'd also point out that the related infrastructure (roads, schools, shops) are not set up for such huge expansion of the residential housing stock.

Finally, the COVID era has highlighted the epidemic of poor mental health amongst all age groups. Ample evidence suggests open spaces are critical to maintaining good mental health. Anything that eats into this green space, and the inevitable growth of development that will follow, further reducing the open space, goes counter to the prevailing wisdom.

I urge you to think again about an irreversible destruction of precious space.

Thank you for listening