

Local Plan – Site SA45 – Land between Camlet Way and Crescent West, Hadley Wood:

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed development of the green belt land highlighted above. I have lived in Hadley Wood for just under a decade and originally moved to the area to provide my family with the space and fresh air afforded by the beautiful surrounding area. This green space has become even more precious given the recent government guidance to stay local due to COVID 19 and I strongly believe that building new homes within the borough should not be at the detriment of existing residents, who are already competing for insufficient resources within a crowded and congested environment. *I also passionately believe that green belt space should be preserved vehemently for future generations and allowing development on this land sets an irreversible and unnecessary precedent.*

My specific objections are outlined in detail below:

1. This is NOT a Sustainable development location

As it stands Hadley Wood lacks sufficient amenities and infrastructure to accommodate a development of this magnitude. It lacks healthcare, shopping and leisure facilities, local public transport is poor and drainage/sewers inadequate. My primary concern is lack of school places, Hadley Wood is served by a tiny single form entry 'village' school, failure to secure a place here would mean a potential round trip of 6-7 miles to find a school that is undersubscribed, given the scarcity of local bus routes and that this is a car dependent location this would further contribute to existing road congestion, contribute to air pollution, impact public health (particularly amongst children) and ultimately increase climate change effects. In regards to secondary schooling, Hadley Wood does not have a local secondary school and is not geographically in any school catchment area due to its isolated situation. Previously, special arrangements have been made with Southgate School to include Hadley Wood within their catchment. It is unlikely that they will have the capacity to extend this arrangement to another potential 160 families, and if they do, with roads already running at 100% capacity, local families will face gridlock misery on the surrounding roads and local health will worsen.

2. It is unnecessary and wrong.

I am aware of half a dozen large scale planning applications that are currently under review within the borough (including enormous developments at Cockfosters and on Green Lanes) and believe that these plans to build on greenbelt land cannot have been adequately assessed, neither in terms of housing supply or demand, especially as final decisions are still outstanding on other proposed planning sites. The sheer scale of this greenbelt development, which is entirely out of keeping with the local area, is too broad to justify the necessary exceptional circumstances for building on greenbelt land, especially when other sites have not been properly considered. By failing to properly investigate all brownfield sites in private and public ownership Enfield Council is failing in its duty to protect our greenbelt and eroding Hadley Wood's unique heritage value.

3. Greenbelt should be protected

It is fundamental that Greenbelt should be protected, particularly when other sites exist where new build homes would be better resourced and less intrusive. This land provides a vital separation between Barnet and Potters Bar, preventing urban sprawl, helping air quality *throughout* the borough and providing an irreplaceable habitat for wildlife and local biodiversity. Our greenbelt is an attractive resource, it adds value to our borough both through the visitors it attracts (the hikers, naturalists, cyclists, bird watchers, dog walkers, families) who spend money in our local community and the value it adds to the wellbeing and mental health of local people who enjoy it every day. What joy is there living in or visiting a borough where all you see are other houses, busy roads and polluted air. It is vital that housing needs are appropriately balanced with the needs of people living within those homes and that Enfield council do not make short sighted decisions that impact the whole of the borough.

To conclude, I urge you to remove all of site SA45 from further development and to properly consider alternative options.