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I have been very concerned to learn of the advanced proposals to develop around 3000 - 5000 new homes on Enfield's Green Belt. This measure will certainly not in any way genuinely address the current shortage of homes for those who already live in Enfield. As a resident on Enfield Road the potential development on the Vicarage Farm site is of particular concern. Very initially I tried to view this in a more positive light as I am acutely aware of the shortage of housing for so many Enfield residents. Unfortunately it was quickly obvious that this scheme would of course be of little benefit to those in housing need in this borough. This will primarily be a development of unaffordable executive homes. I then checked a few current facts about the housing plan in Enfield which made me far more worried as to how and why this development might be given consent.

- As you will know Enfield failed the HDT earlier this year, leaving our borough far more vulnerable to having little say in opposing developers' plans.
- I also know that there are 3000 empty homes in Enfield which the Council are aware of. A statement was made after the HDT failure which did not address this at all. It was shocking to know that the intention is to bring 60 of these houses a year back into use. At that rate it would take 50 years to make full use of this option. So how many more empty properties are going to go to waste during even the next ten years?
- Of course repurposing of brownfield sites is surely a very practical approach. The Meridian Water project is, very slowly, underway with a target of 10,000 homes but only the very first phase of this is commencing.

I could go on and on when it comes to lack of affordable housing and opportunities for local people, especially young families and key workers, to acquire settled homes at social rents. We only have to look at the extortionate sale prices of the Trent Park scheme to realise that the Vicarage Farm build will not be for local people. No doubt the developer will have to factor in a small percentage of affordable properties to meet planning requirements but the impact will be utterly minimal.

Finally, but hugely important, is the really sad effect on a beautiful area of fields and wooded copses inhabited by wildlife which will be destroyed. I and my family enjoy using this route to walk with our dog to Trent Park. The way this would affect us is however of little consequence in comparison to the shocking mismanagement of Enfield's housing against a very genuine tide of need for those awaiting proper homes. How can the Leader state in her message this year that "We will seek ways to accelerate our affordable housing position" when we, as residents, see the reality which does nothing to match this pledge. This plan is a knee jerk response to the crisis we are in. It is shameful that this Council want to give the green light to further poor planning and dismissal of the rights of Enfield residents to remain in their home borough with appropriate housing provision. Your role is not to meet the commercial objectives of developers but to create and support a realistic long term housing plan which brings Enfield's offer to a standard which is second to none.

