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Dear Enfield Council

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this very 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 SA62 page 372; and Policy SA62 page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279 – all of which propose the dedesignation of Green Belt for housing and other purposes. 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.

While I support the ambition to meet Enfield's housing needs, I strongly object to the proposal to release Green Belt land for housing or other purposes. The historic Enfield Chase landscape, unique to north London, is well used by residents including me and my family for leisure, exercise and recreation. Living in north Enfield, the Green Belt was a precious green lung for my family during the darkest days of the pandemic and we have walked many hundreds of miles across its footpaths over the last 18 months. The sheer natural beauty of the rolling landscape of Vicarage Farm in particular is something which should be cherished. The Green Belt is a precious resource that must be protected and preserved for future generations. It is too valuable to lose for a host environmental, ecological, economic and public health reasons.

I believe that there are alternatives available to meet housing targets - many smaller brownfield sites across Enfield, and thousands of empty houses across the borough (I'm basing this rough estimate on the number of homes I knew to be empty in my own street and the surprisingly large number I have noticed in recent weeks while leafleting properties in other areas of the borough for Enfield Roadwatch's campaign).

I'm also shocked to see plans for a crematorium in Policy DM BG10, in the draft local plan. To remove public access from a well-loved open space set in a densely populated area, a place teeming with nature thanks to the efforts of a thriving volunteer group - and hand it over to the dead is a truly shocking and regressive proposal, especially when tennis courts alongside the A10 have so recently been sacrificed for burial space!

Kind regards,