

---

Dear Sirs,

Like many Enfield residents I have a number of strong views against some of the content within the proposed Draft Local Plan for Enfield. As you will be very aware this is a very large document and contains many pages with content that means little to the average resident making it very hard to fully understand. My responses below are “simple views” based on what I have read online both on the Enfield Council website and from other interested parties.

Based on my high level reading of the proposal 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.

I was born in Enfield and, coincidentally, live very close to Vicarage Farm which is one of the major areas of concern, I also have played golf at Crews Hill and regularly used the Garden Centres in Crews Hill so clearly will have what appears to be a biased view. However, it is irrelevant which piece of Green Belt land is being proposed for development my view is that it should simply not even be under consideration. Once a piece of Green Belt land is developed there would be no going back and it also concerns me that this would just lead to further encroachment on adjacent Green Belt land as other plans come along to infill other areas.

There is much talk of “affordable homes” being built but as seen within the recent Chase Farm Hospital development this rarely comes to fruition, usually due to economic reasons, so I am very sceptical as to how affordable any of the developments on the Green Belt land would be. The council granted planning permission for the Trent Park homes and they all appear to be luxury properties, how many of those were built as “affordable” homes? It is easy to throw these words into consultation documents to make it all sound good but the truth is always in the end detail, and at this stage we don't have any of that.

I also have concerns around the number of proposals for high rise buildings in and around the borough. While I can understand that this seems to be a simple way to provide large numbers of properties on a small footprint I also feel that we should have learned from previous tower block developments that seem to suggest they are not nice places to live. While I have the benefit of a house with a garden and have never lived in a tower block it has been previously shown in other parts of Enfield that tower blocks have issues such that they have been demolished and replaced with low rise developments, how can it now be ok to start building more new tower blocks, it just does not make sense?

We already have traffic issues in and around Enfield so I fail to see how the addition of 000's of new properties can ever be without a major impact on this. The Crews Hill area has only minor roads feeding it and given East Lodge Lane is already extremely busy at most times, especially rush hour, how could anyone think it can handle any extra traffic generated by a new development..

As a regular user of the Merryhills Way footpath I feel the health benefits we get from the rural nature of this route in the west of the borough would be destroyed by any development on Vicarage Farm as you would effectively be walking through a housing estate. As highlighted by many other campaigners the pandemic has shown how important it is for the public to have access to the countryside and open spaces for their wellbeing.

I assume you will have had extensive feedback from both individual public members, local associations, campaign groups and other national bodies and would be surprised if any of them were supportive of the plans to de-designate the proposed Green Belt areas. While I understand you have to meet housing targets I must ask you to reevaluate this proposal to make far better use of ANY existing brownfield sites so we can avoid ANY development on the proposed Green Belt areas. 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. Once it is gone it would change the character of the area forever and you would be responsible for that decision, not something I would want to live with myself.