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To whom it may concern:

My wife and I have lived in Hadley Wood for 23 years - our two children were born here and we regard this as a special community. We are members of the Hadley Wood Association, our son started his tennis journey at Hadley Wood Tennis Club (and at one stage was a national junior tennis player), and both of our children went to Hadley Wood pre-school and Hadley Wood Primary School.

A prime driver behind our move to Hadley Wood all those years ago is the fact that it is surrounded by Green Belt, and it was this feature that we valued and felt that it protected the special character of the area. Indeed, we often walk along Bartrams Lane and Crescent West as we find the landscape and tranquility to be invaluable and has aided our mental health and well-being, particularly so during the pandemic.

We therefore object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed site allocation, which would allow the development of 160 homes on Green Belt land.

Amongst many reasons, we have the following legitimate concerns which we feel the Council must take into consideration:

**1. LACK OF SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS.** Whilst good growth and development is to be welcomed, amenities and infrastructure would require significant investment (not part of the proposal here) to accommodate a meaningful increase in the number of residents through the development of site SA45 or intensification around the station. Hadley Wood lacks schools, healthcare, shopping and leisure facilities, local public transport is poor and drainage/sewers inadequate. It is a car-dependent location, and key roads operate at over 100% of capacity, and congestion causes air pollution and thus increases climate change effects.

**2. SAVE OUR GREEN BELT.** The Green Belt must be protected and conserved as it serves vital purposes including separation from Barnet and Potters Bar, helping air quality in the borough and biodiversity. The centuries' old grasslands are an important resource for carbon sequestration. Additionally, the Hadley Wood meadows under threat are part of the established Green Belt in an Area of Special Character across three boroughs. They provide visual harmony for many walkers and cyclists, are the setting for two Conservation Areas and their loss would greatly harm the heritage value of both Hadley Wood and Monken Hadley. The intensification plans would also cause harm to the Conservation Area.

**3. CLIMATE CHANGE.** As a car-dependent location Hadley Wood is not a suitable location for a large scale increase in housing at site SA45 or through intensification. The already existing congestion would be worsened, leading to air pollution. Also, as mentioned previously, the destruction of grassland, a valuable resource for carbon sequestration, would also represent a material negative. Given that the UK is hosting COP26 this month, I'm sure this must also be front and centre of the Council's focus and consideration.

Can you please therefore remove this proposed site allocation from the next edition of the Local Plan and retain the green belt status for the land.

Kind regards