
Subject: Local Plan consultation response

Dear Enfield Council

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this 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 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.

Most of these sites are part of historic Enfield Chase, which played an important role in the development of Enfield. The remaining parts of the Chase are unique in the southeast and a rare and valuable landscape asset. The loss of these sites would cause permanent harm not only to the Green Belt, but also to the very character of the borough. Vicarage Farm is crossed by the Merryhills Way footpath, much used by Enfield residents and others for exercise and relaxation and the physical and mental health attributes of the footpath would be destroyed by development. The farmland could be put back into productive use growing local food for local people. Crews Hill is equally important to the borough and should not be destroyed. Its garden centres and other businesses provide employment and a resource for people from Enfield and beyond. Instead of losing Crews Hill for housing, its horticultural activities should be encouraged and enhanced so that it can once again be a hub for food and plant production. The pandemic made us all turn to horticulture as a form of therapy & having such a valuable resource in Enfield must not be underestimated.

While I support housing development and support the ambition to meet Enfield's housing needs, I strongly object to the proposal to release Green Belt for housing or other purposes. I believe that there are alternatives available to meet housing targets and that the Green Belt is a precious resource that should be protected and preserved for future generations. It is too valuable to lose for all the many environmental, ecological, economic, public health and other reasons that have been identified, especially during the recent pandemic. 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.

I strongly oppose the plan to build a tower block for housing in the centre of Enfield Town which would totally destroy the character and appearance of the town which is a conservation area.

I would also like to oppose the plan to allow development on the Sainsbury's site in Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill. This is the only large supermarket in Winchmore Hill, providing employment for many local people. The supermarket is very well used both by car drivers and local people walking or arriving by bus to shop. If this is lost, then their only alternative would be to travel to Enfield, creating more car journeys, pollution and parking problems.

There have been articles in the national press over the last few days indicating that the Government have decided to water down the planning laws to give more rights of choice to local residents to object to planning applications, and that they will no longer be placing a mandatory requirement on local authorities to allow a minimum number of homes to be built.

The comments provided in this response to the consultation are my own views.

Regards,

