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### **Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021**

I am writing to **object** to the following Policies: **Policy SP PL10, pages 80-87, and Figure 3.11**; and **Policy SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3.10**.

These policies involve building on vast areas of the Green Belt, on sites which are part of historic Enfield Chase and currently provide unspoilt countryside, which in Greater London is a rare and highly valuable resource. Historically Enfield Borough has preserved green spaces, making it an attractive area in which to live, and the loss of these sites would cause permanent harm to the Green Belt and to the character of the borough.

**I am particularly opposed to the loss of Vicarage Farm to create an urban development, to be known as Chase Park, on open Green Belt countryside: Policy SP PL10, pages 80-87, and Figure 3.11.** The following are a few of the reasons why:

- Physical and mental health benefits from the enjoyment of natural open green spaces, away from roads and buildings, are incredibly important, as highlighted more than ever during the Covid pandemic. My family and I regularly walk on the Merryhills Way footpath to Trent Park or to the Ridgeway and see many others enjoying this space. The open views across the landscape lift our spirits and exercise in clean air greatly benefits our general wellbeing. We see this Green Belt area being used by people of all ages, including primary school children, teenagers relaxing with friends, families, local and long distance walkers, people jogging, walking dogs, bird watching etc. It is very well used for recreation and exercise, and development here, leaving a footpath alongside housing, would destroy the physical and mental health benefits from walking and relaxing in the unspoilt Green Belt land with its peacefulness and wonderful views.
- Accessibility: this area is used throughout the year by local residents, and is also easy to access for people living further away with good bus and underground services nearby. The location adjacent to existing residential roads and within easy reach of public transport is a huge advantage.
- Environmental benefits of preserving the Green Belt to provide a break in high density urbanisation, including improving air quality, reducing high urban temperatures, helping manage flood risks. To build on this land would extend the urban sprawl and increase congestion and air and noise pollution due to the high numbers of new residential properties proposed right next to existing residential roads. More road traffic will also inevitably follow when roads in and out of Enfield already carry a constant stream of traffic and become heavily congested many times every day.
- Permanent loss of ecosystems and biodiversity at a time when the damage caused by climate change is recognised as having a major impact on all our futures, locally, nationally and globally. The farmland could actually be used for growing food locally in the future and be productive without destroying important wildlife habitats.
- The vast extent of the proposed building work so close to established residential areas will have a serious detrimental effect on the quality of life for people, such as my family, living locally during the long building period.

**I am also opposed to Policy SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3.10 relating to development at Crews Hill.** I believe:

- This is a unique area, again providing a boundary to the urban sprawl and providing important environmental benefits, helping tackle the problems of pollution, high temperatures and the pace of climate change. These benefits would be lost for ever if the proposed development were allowed to go ahead.

- Local businesses should be protected, not destroyed. I can see no justification for destroying the horticultural and other businesses located at Crews Hill, providing local employment opportunities, when other options are available within the borough. These businesses at Crews Hill offer an enjoyable and relaxing environment in which to shop and, along with productive farmland in this area of beautiful countryside, are also a valuable resource that Enfield Borough is lucky to have.
- Traffic congestion and pollution will result from the proposed development and rural lanes will be lost, again a part of Enfield's character currently.

**Building on the Green Belt is not necessary.** I realise new homes are needed but I always believed the Council had a duty of care for the Green Belt, in accordance with the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework, and I strongly oppose any plans to release parts of it for development. Many urban areas within Enfield are in need of regeneration and building new housing within existing neglected built-up areas or former industrial land, which is widely available, is not just possible but in my view should be prioritised. Genuinely affordable homes could be achieved in these locations, meeting Government targets, without putting the borough's future in the hands of wealthy developers and losing Enfield's heritage and the amazing benefits the existing Green Belt landscape offers for current and future generations.

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

Regards,