
Dear Enfield Council

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

- From David Davies (Enfield resident of 50 years): 111, Conway Road N14 7BH

Summary: Do not build houses on the Green Belt. There is huge opposition to the loss of the Green Belt in a borough that has always been proud of its 'green roof'

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. There are alternative sites for increasing the housing stock. PLEASE THINK AGAIN ABOUT YOUR PRIORITIES

1 Background:

- London's Green Belt was put in place primarily to stop London sprawling into the surrounding countryside and to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment of continuous development around London **The London Plan** places the utmost importance on the protection of the Green Belt and the Mayor also has a strong commitment to protect the Green Belt.

. **The proposed development on Enfield's Green Belt would not be 'deeply green' or a 'gateway settlement' as claimed.** It would be sprawl, plain and simple. Urban sprawl comes with multiple economic costs, including increased travel costs; decreased economic vitality of urban centres; increased tax burdens due to more expensive road and utility construction and maintenance; increased car use leading to higher air pollution and increased health care costs for diseases like asthma, and loss of productive farmland and natural lands that support tourism.

2 I am writing to object to the following Specific Policies, which propose the de-designation of Green Belt for housing and other purposes:

- 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;
- Policy SA62 page 383;
- and SP CL4 pages 277-279 .

Most of the designated sites in Enfield's Local Plan 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.

3. Housing development:

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.

There are alternative sites for increasing the housing stock where there is better transport potential and which will meet the need for low cost housing – not on posh estates in the Green Belt whose prices will be unaffordable for the average person and so will not answer Enfield's need for new homes!