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Dear si/madam

My name is Neelam Hodgins, I currently live at 3 St Ronans Close EN4 0JH. My family have lived in Hadley Wood for over 20 years. I have had children attend the Hadley Wood nursery, Hadley Wood Primary School and now Mount House School. My nephew still attends Hadley Wood Primary.

The site stated above is used by Hadley Wood Nursery, Hadley Wood Primary and Mount House School for walks, sports, school events and learning about nature. Many locals also use the site for walking and cycling. If the site was developed this fundamental resource for our resident and schools would be lost. At a time when all schools are struggling for facilities it would be counterproductive to remove such a resource.

The green spaces within Hadley Wood are what draw many people to the area and is a key to its special character and conservation. The pandemic has taught us just how important local green spaces are to both our physical and mental wellbeing and they should be preserved not destroyed.

Building on green belt land is contrary to all the green and climate change policies. The green site assists air quality (which is an increasingly important issue for all, but especially our children) and biodiversity in the borough and it would be a huge environmental loss if it were built on.

The site is a unique area of special character linking the conservation areas in Hadley Wood. It is also an important defence against flooding being at the head valley of a main river. Given the impact of climate change on flooding in London and around the country in the last few years especially this year, to remove this important defence would at best be reckless and at worst negligent.

Projections for housing needs in this area are uncertain and other brownfield sites in the borough will become available in the years to come which would not lead to such a detrimental environmental impact.

A new housing estate on this site is impracticable and not sustainable. The only state primary school in the area is already overwhelmed with applications and cannot meet the needs of existing residents let alone a whole new estate. Travel connections are poor with trains not running regularly and often cancelled and only suitable for commuters into London rather than around to borough. There is no bus service other than an extremely limited one running only hourly mid-morning to mid-afternoon. It is not suitable for school

children or working adults due to the service times. Building a housing estate here will mean additional traffic, pollution and congestion all contrary to the policies for cycling and walking.

As a resident, the sheer number of road works that have had to be endured in the last 2 years have made driving in this area appalling with long queues. Beech Hill/Camlet Way which links Hadley Wood to the rest of Enfield and Barnet is constantly being dug up. Adding a new estate would further overwhelm the existing infrastructure in the area.

The site should not be used for building homes as it is adjacent to the conservation area on which it would have a detrimental effect, next to green belt and is a flood protection measure. Many homes in Hadley Wood already suffer with basement flooding and developing on the site would make this worse.

The climate change conference is due to be held in the UK this year and the government should be showing that the country is preserving green areas and carrying out actions to limit climate change not worsen it.

For the reasons given above please remove this proposed site allocation for building and retain the green belt status of this land.

Kind regards