

Dear Sirs

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 SA62 page 372; and Policy SA62 page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279 – all of which propose the dedesignation of Green Belt for housing and other purposes.

The loss of the above sites would cause permanent harm not only to the Green Belt, but also to the character of the borough. One of the sites, Vicarage Farm, is crossed by the Merryhills Way footpath. This is regularly used by local residents and others for exercise and the proposed development would significantly reduce its health benefits. Instead of losing farmland to development it could be put back into productive use growing food for local people, which would be of considerable environmental benefit. Crews Hill is also important to the borough with its garden centres and other businesses providing employment to the community. 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. Development of these sites would increase car usage, causing more air pollution and environmental damage at a time when the issue of climate change needs urgent action. Destruction of the Green Belt is entirely counter to these issues.

While I recognise the need for 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. The Mayor of London has already stated his objection and I agree with the principles he has raised. I believe that there are alternatives available to meet housing targets and that the Green Belt should be protected and preserved for future generations. There are many environmental, ecological, economic, public health and other reasons that have been identified for preserving the Green Belt, 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.

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