

## OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON GREEN BELT LAND

Dear Sirs,

I am a councillor in neighbouring Barnet (High Barnet Ward). I have read with horror these proposals from Enfield Council to build on the Green Belt. I feel that the proposals would ruin a beautiful and ecologically important part of North London, and also set a deeply damaging precedent for Councils across the area to build on sacrosanct Green Belt land. I object to this terrible proposal which would desecrate a special area for a small number of houses, which could easily be fitted into a less sensitive location.

In summary, i believe:

1. **We need to save our Green Belt for current and future generations.** The Green Belt must be protected and conserved in North West Enfield where it serves vital purposes including separation from Barnet and Potters Bar, helping air quality in the borough and biodiversity. It cannot be right to plan to destroy this Green Belt, directly contrary to all green and climate change policies. We should be protecting and conserving our remaining green spaces now and for future generations.
2. **The plan will destroy our unique heritage landscape.** The Hadley Wood meadows under threat are unique and not just some fields in the middle of nowhere. They are part of the established green belt in a single Area of Special Character across three boroughs. They are in the middle of a green corridor from Barnet through to the farms north and east of Hadley Wood, providing visual harmony for many walkers and cyclists. They are the setting for two Conservation Areas and their loss to a housing estate would greatly harm the heritage value of both Hadley Wood and Monken Hadley. This is the head valley of a main Enfield river which is liable to flood and needs to keep its riverside flood spaces. As a ward Councillor in High Barnet, I fully appreciate the importance of this area of heritage which adjoins the North of High Barnet Ward. Residents in my ward are furious that this beautiful space is under threat.
3. **The plan is unjust and incorrect. The scale of the harm caused will massively outweigh the small benefit of 160 new homes.** It cannot be right to plan for the certain and irretrievable environmental loss of these special meadows for a few extra houses to be built more than ten years later based on uncertain projections for 25,000 houses needed over twenty years. They may never be needed. Other brownfield sites will become available over ten and twenty years, including many owned by the Council.
4. **The development is not sustainable. There are few services such as schools, GPs and transport.** Hadley Wood is consequently not a sustainable location for a new housing estate.
5. **The site is not appropriate for this development.** The site should not be allocated for 160 houses. It is a sloping and sensitive site adjacent to neighbouring green belt, as well as in the setting of Hadley Wood Conservation Area. Moreover, the lower part of the site is in a flood area for the river and will be highly affected by surface water run-off issues within the site and downstream within Hadley Wood.

Therefore, please remove this proposed site allocation from the next edition of the Local Plan and retain the green belt status for the land. This removal will benefit current and future generations not just in Enfield but also in neighbouring Barnet, especially High Barnet which it is my great privilege to represent.

Thank you for considering my submission.

