

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Draft Local Plan - Site SA45 - Land between Camlet Way and Crescent West, Hadley Wood - and intensification zone around Hadley Wood station.

I used to live in Hadley Wood for nearly 10 years, and have currently resided in High Barnet since 2013. I have continued to make good use of the location as an important route for cycling to gain access to quiet roads within a green landscape for much needed head-space from my work as a clinical psychologist with children and families. I have also continued to make use of the Hadley Wood Association Centre over the past 15 years for my two daughters' ballet lessons.

I am writing to object to the proposed site allocation, which would allow the development of 160 homes on Green Belt land for the following reasons:

1. Save our green belt - this may be less obvious to Enfield Council but as a resident of Barnet which is the northern-most London borough, all the green belt land separating London from Hertfordshire is absolutely critical for the well-being of Londoners as well as the local community. It provides an essential lung between the densely urban setting of London and the increasingly growing towns in Hertfordshire - Potter's Bar and Hatfield being good examples. Without this small but vital green belt London's sprawl will effectively 'never end'. As we have all been starkly made aware, good mental health and well-being in our increasingly urban populations can be especially fragile without a range of support systems in place. Research has shown that access to green settings for head-space/stress relief, leisure, fitness and relaxation radically improve well-being. From living in High Barnet I have noted how well this area is used not just by the local community but by a wide range of North Londoners - popular with cyclists who use Wagon Road because of the stunning views, walkers to the woods and fields, families for picnics, dog walks and outdoor games. I noted in lockdown that these areas were even more utilised and with Covid now the 'new norm' access to these precious outdoor spaces for Londoners is even more vital. In future years Hadley Wood is well placed to play a bigger role in this regard as the train route is directly out of some very populated urban areas in London and it would not require further car journeys to access this land. In my view as a clinical psychologist it is of fundamental importance that these areas and setting are preserved for now and future generations' well-being and mental health. I personally enjoy a safe 10k

cycle loop route several times a week from High Barnet around crescent West to Crescent East and back. This passes the affected fields and I can't imagine that the stress relief I gain from this exercise would be the same without this setting that I cycle in - as research shows, it's the green views that are just as important as the exercise for good mental health.

2. Climate Change - I'm aware from living in Hadley Wood that local public transport to access Barnet's shops and amenities is extremely poor. Further development will increase car journeys, substantially changing the pollution levels and traffic. Loss of green belt will also undermine climate action. I understand that there are many brown field sites that can be developed in Enfield where good transport links are already in place, so this proposed development does not support the urgent need to move towards a decrease in car journeys in line with climate change.

3. Inappropriate and Wrong - Enabling independence for children in Hadley Wood is already a challenge given the poor access to Barnet, and in addition the easy, close access to the M25 has already increased the risk for criminals to target children walking alone and drag them off in a car. I'm aware that current residents pay a substantial amount each year to private security to increase safety in this area but this may not be a viable option to the new residents. I therefore think this site will never be appropriate for any further development of this kind.

Please can you therefore remove this proposed site allocation from the next edition of the Local Plan and retain the green belt status of the land.