

Dear Madam or Sir

Please find herewith my response to the 'Local Plan' consultation and in particular my objection to building on the Green Belt land within the borough - 'the lungs of our great city'.

By way of background, I have lived in Enfield for my whole life with the exception of a few years as a younger man. As a child I grew up in Alma Road on the eastern side of the borough. I ventured, by virtue of a short bus ride, to the western side with my family to enjoy the 'county-side' and to appreciate the value of nature, open space and fresh air!

This is an area of the borough that is there for all our residents. The Green Belt is the lungs of London - unlike some other areas of the country, London can ill-afford to lose any of its green space, especially at its perimeter. The diversity of the borough's landscape, which includes the green belt, is a priceless asset and this local plan would destroy this diversity, a bad decision that could never be rectified.

I am an active member of the Enfield Roadwatch group and I am grateful to fellow members for the work they have done in considering the plan and used some of their research to structure my thoughts. I have considered the various aspects of the plan and 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 SA52 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.

These areas taken together make up a considerable part of the valuable countryside landscape in the borough. The loss of these sites would cause permanent harm not only to the Green Belt, but also to the very character of the borough.

The green open spaces provide a resource to residents and visitors on several levels. They contribute to the good mental and physical health of people resident, working and living in the borough; they are a significant part of what attracts new people to live work and visit; this in turn brings valuable income to the borough by attracting new and existing affluent businesses, visitors and new residents. The loss of the green belt would irrevocably damage this influx of people and income.

Considering some specifics, 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. One way to make best use of this land is to put the farmland back into productive use growing local food for local people. Crews Hill is another example which 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. This area is renowned across north London and the Home Counties as an unrivalled and extensive resource for gardening and all its associated activities. It brings many people to the borough who would otherwise never visit. It is long established as a magnet for gardeners and day-trippers.

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. In this way it will continue to provide a practical environment for the horticultural students of Capel Manor to explore. Also for other younger students from our schools and colleges to study

and explore plant life in a commercial and business setting.

I also object to PolicyDM BG10: Burial and crematorium spaces, which would take part of Firs Farm and other recreation sites for crematoria.

I also object to Policy DEG: Tall Buildings. Tall buildings are inappropriate in most parts of Enfield and the Council even admits in 7.6.4 that alternative building forms, such as lower-rise mansion blocks, can achieve a similar number of homes as tower blocks. Please don't allow the historic and characterful Enfield Town become a second Ilford Town centre, blighted by ugly, bland high-rise development! This would be an insult to our ancestors who have created our delightful town and leave a legacy for our successors to have to try to rectify; much like we are having to do with the legacy of the '60's tower block disasters, such as those in Alma Road.

I, like most reasonable thinking people, support housing development and the ambition to meet Enfield's housing needs, however, I strongly object to the proposal to release Green Belt for housing or other purposes for the reasons I have stated. There are clearly other alternatives to meet housing targets and the Green Belt is an immensely precious resource that should be protected and preserved for future generations. Once lost it can never be retrieved.

Part of the answer is to make use of 'brownfield' sites. It is incredibly frustrating to see the many 'brownfield' sites across the borough that are allowed to degenerate and adversely affect the neighbourhoods that adjoin them. One such example is the site of the former library and clinic in Enfield Road at the junction with Foxmead Close. This site is an incredible eyesore, attracts fly-tippers and anti-social behaviour by youths. A complimentary development here would greatly benefit everyone.

Our precious green belt is too valuable to lose for all the many environmental, ecological, economic, public health and other reasons that have been identified, highlighted even more during the recent pandemic. The Council has a duty, not least a moral duty, to preserve 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. To build on and thus destroy any of our Green Belt would be a blight on the history of our local democracy and an injustice and insult, not least to those who have represented us locally in times gone by. It would leave a legacy for future generations that will be unwelcome and they would rightly look back at us with utter disdain.

***The green belt is the lungs of London and Londoners - do not take away this breathing space for the generations that follow.***