

Dear Sirs

I have lived in the centre of Hadley Wood, in the Conservation Area, for 33 years. My house is on the north side of Crescent West, close to Hadley Wood National Rail Station, with the rear garden entrance on Bartrams Lane opposite the open field used for sports activities and general recreation. This is Green Belt land close to the land comprising Site SA45, which is all part of beautiful countryside on the edge of London extending for about one mile up to the M25. The proposed incursion into part of this land, which is also of considerable historic interest, close to existing residential property, is both unsuitable and unnecessary.

Enfield's Local Plan aims to add 25,000 homes to the housing stock in the Borough. The proposed development of 160 homes is insignificant within this total but the adverse effect on the Hadley Wood community would be disproportionate. Hadley Wood is small and the pressure on infrastructure, amenities (which are altogether very limited), state schooling (only a primary school which is already oversubscribed) etc. would be unsustainable. The local area is poorly served by public transport with a PTAL (Public Transport Accessibility Level) very near the bottom of the range in London. Although there is a reasonably adequate train service to central London, there is no regular bus service (other than an hourly "shoppers" service only five times a day on weekdays, to High Barnet). There is no local service from the centre of Hadley Wood to Cockfosters, despite Hadley Wood being in Cockfosters Ward, or to anywhere else. Local travel is therefore almost totally car dependent, and the additional traffic and strain on parking facilities centrally near the small parade of shops and the station (which is in a residential area and has no dedicated parking) would be unacceptable. Thus the perceived desirability, under the London Plan, of intensification of residential intensity within 800m of any station is seriously flawed in Hadley Wood's case.

The environmental damage of the development would be disproportionate to any benefit. Apart from the aesthetic and recreational loss of beautiful Green Belt land, and general "green" pollution and climate change considerations, there is also concern about increased risk of flash flooding, already a problem due to inadequate drainage off the prevailing London Clay in the area.

There are also heritage considerations: the proposed site and nearby land is very possibly the site of the important Battle of Barnet in 1471 and careful archaeological excavation needs to be done at some stage, before it is too late, to dig for weapons, ammunition etc. which may be buried.

It seems to me that the proposed development is opportunistic and that inadequate

consideration may have been given both to the consequences here and to prioritisation of more suitable alternatives such as brownfield sites in the Borough away from the Green Belt.

For all these reasons I wish to register my strong objection to the proposed development on Green Belt land.