

Dear Enfield Council

I writing in response to your Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021.

One of my biggest concerns is the planned use of Green Belt Land around our lovely, unique town to build houses: especially in Crewes Hill and so-called Chase Park area (Policies PL9 and PL10). Enfield is very special in having countryside on its doorstep, and which gives a welcome break between town and the M25 - which is only a couple of miles away from Enfield town.

While I realise that all urban areas have the problem of supplying more housing, the plan to use up a valuable tract of nature is untenable. These areas are very popular with Enfield residents for walks and other activities, and nature is a vital resource - a fact only emphasised further by the experiences of the pandemic and lock down. These areas are also very much a part of the history of Enfield itself and an intrinsic element of the very character of our town - which your plans will ruin forever, turning it into just another urban sprawl.

The plans would also put a huge burden on infrastructure. There is little public transport in the northwest of Enfield, and people will inevitably use their cars for shopping, commutes etc. - however many cycle routes you install (you have to be realistic about this, the existing cycle routes in Enfield are not much utilised). This will add to air pollution.

Other brown sites in the borough should be looked at as alternatives - more expensive than digging up virgin green land of course, but you cannot and should not put a price on nature. Developing sites already within the urban boundaries of the borough for these thousands of houses, instead of Green Belt, would also bring welcome social improvements to more impoverished areas in Enfield, and areas where public transport is far better - and this truly helping with the housing problems.

I am especially alarmed that Enfield Council plans to do this when it has declared a Climate Emergency. Protecting ecology and the environment are central to protecting this planet from further degradation, and the more nature is eaten up, the more effect on the climate. These Green Belt areas are vital to help counteract climate change - small on a global scale, but every little area of green is important. 'Climate Emergency' is not mere rhetoric - it is a real crisis facing us all, and generations to come.

I would also remind you that the council is obliged to protect the Green Belt under the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

As a final note, I am also concerned at how little effort has been made to make the proposed plans known to the public - putting into question your desire to truly consult with the residents of this borough on this far reaching project. Many people will only have come across the draft plan by chance. Also, in itself the plan document is scarcely accessible to ordinary people - being 400+ pages long and written in 'planning speak'. Why didn't a notification go through the letterbox of every single resident in the borough to alert them? That would have indicated a genuine effort to consult people in Enfield.