

Local Plan - Site SA45 – Land between Camlet Way and Crescent West, Hadley Wood

To whom it may concern:

I am a long-standing and active member of the Hadley Wood Association and believe strongly its ethos of making Hadley Wood a better place to live through protecting its green spaces for both Hadley Wood residents and the wider community of Enfield to enjoy. It was notable during the various lockdowns that Hadley Wood's green space drew people from across Enfield and central London; in my opinion it is one of the jewels in Enfield's crown. I therefore object strongly to the proposed site allocation for 160 new homes between Camlet Way and the conservation zone of Crescent West on Green Belt land.

**1. CLIMATE EMERGENCY.** As part of Enfield's pledge to tackle issues around climate change and the environment, the borough is committed to reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality in the borough. New housing developments must have adequate public transport options – unfortunately Hadley Wood is poorly served by public transport. Whilst residents can commute into London by train, cars are essential to access medical services, major shops, secondary schools, post office, pharmacy etc.

**2. GREEN BELT.** The Green Belt should be an integral part of Enfield's commitment to the becoming a carbon-neutral borough. It serves an increasingly vital role in improving air quality and biodiversity. The green belts are the lungs of urban London and need to be protected for today's and future generations for their physical and mental well being as well as their enjoyment.

**2. HADLEY WOOD MEADOWS .** The meadowland of Site SA45 are unique and long established and not just some fields in the middle of nowhere. They form part of a green corridor from Barnet through to the farms north and east of Hadley Wood, providing visual harmony for walkers and cyclists who visit Hadley Wood from central London and Enfield to explore the countryside; after all Hadley Wood has an important role as the starting point of Route 12 on the National Cycle Network

**3. FLOODING.** Hadley Wood is the site of the head valley of a main Enfield river which is liable to flood and needs to keep its riverside flood spaces. The lower part of the site is in a flood area for the river and would be highly affected by surface water run-off issues within the site and downstream within Hadley Wood. It is completely unsustainable to build in a flood-risk zone. Arguably the green belt is not just the lungs of London but also the sponges of London too.

**4. CAR DEPENDENCY IN HADLEY WOOD.** Hadley Wood is not a sustainable location for a new housing estate because residents are sadly dependent on car use; any new housing would

increase traffic, congestion, air and noise pollution. The only primary school is already full with a long waiting list so children would have to be driven to a nearby school. The trains and buses do not connect us with GP surgeries, pharmacies, post offices, secondary schools etc. so car use would increase significantly.

**6. UNCLEAR CRITERIA.** It is not clear to me how Enfield Council have concluded that the fields should be removed from the Green Belt and developed for residential housing. There must be alternative brown belt sites and more will become available over the next few years as people's habits change following lockdown (for example shopping centres might close) which would provide for more sustainable development.

On the other hand, as part of Enfield's pledge to become carbon neutral there is an increasing need for green space and green belt to be used for leisure, allotments, creation of wetlands, planting of trees and additional farmland to allow residents to procure locally-produced food. There is no indication of the Council having undertaken proper due diligence or looking at alternative options of how the land might be used.

I therefore urge you to remove this proposed site allocation from the next edition of the Local Plan and retain the green belt status for the land.