

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in Hadley Wood for 15 years and regularly enjoy the green spaces in and around the neighbourhood. If the pandemic taught us anything, it is that open green spaces and fields are an essential refuge from the built environment where we can all enjoy socially distanced interactions. It is perplexing to see that you are proposing to build 160 homes in this unspoilt, wild green space without properly exploring other options in already built-up areas.

I wish to strongly object to the proposed release of this green belt site and the site allocation, which would allow the development of 160 homes on green belt land for the following reasons:

1. LACK OF SUITABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AT LOCATION. The area is already struggling with heavy traffic due to existing housing. Hadley Wood is served by just 3 roads and proposed applications for building apartment buildings have been already denied in recognition of the extra car-traffic it would entail. There are insufficient transport and road provision, amenities, schools etc to cope with an additional 160 homes

2. GREEN BELT SHOULD BE PROTECTED. The Green Belt must be protected and preserved. It provides valuable recreational space, clean air and a wildlife sanctuary.

3. IT IS UNNECESSARY AND WRONG. It is not clear that options of refurbishing or re-building in built-up areas have been adequately and exhaustively explored. There is also no evidence of compliance with the Duty to Cooperate with other boroughs.

5. CLIMATE CHANGE. As a car-dependent location Hadley Wood is not a suitable place for a large-scale increase in housing at site SA45 or through intensification. The already existing congestion would be worsened, leading to air pollution and habitat loss.

Please remove all of site SA45 from the proposed allocation and fully investigate all brownfield sites in private and public ownership before looking to build on the green belt.