

Dear Enfield Council

**Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021**

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I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the Draft Local Plan for Enfield and to **strongly object** to the following specific proposals contained within that plan:

**SP PL10, pages 80-87 and figure 3.11 – Vicarage Farm site referred to as “Chase Park” proposal to build 3,000 new properties**

The proposal to build a huge new housing development on this beautiful and historic landscape, which Enfield’s own reports describe an Area of Special Character, is a travesty. Apart from its loss causing permanent harm to the Green Belt and the loss of the much used Merryhills Way footpath for exercise and relaxation, the plan removes the opportunity to retain the farmland for productive use growing local food for local people.

The draft plan does not fully describe the devastating impact on the environment; the additional infrastructure that will be needed to support such a development on the scale of a small town or the amount of additional cars that will accompany 3,000 new householders.

**SP PL9, pages 77-80 and figure 3.10 – Crews Hill site proposal to build 3,000 new properties**

This is another vital area of the Green Belt which incorporates garden centres and other businesses that provide employment to local people and attracts visitors from a wide area. 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.

Again, the draft plan does not fully describe the devastating impact on the environment or the additional infrastructure that will be needed to support the development of 3,000 homes with the potential for longer term expansion.

**SA45, page 364 - Hadley Wood proposal to build 160 new properties**

This is a further erosion of the Green Belt and another example of urban sprawl. The likelihood of any affordable homes being included here is negligible.

**SA54, page 374 – Junction 24 of M25 proposal to provide industrial and storage facilities**

The proposal to replace 11 hectares of agricultural land with industrial, storage and distribution facilities will impact on the environment as the green gateway to Enfield Chase and lead to further traffic congestion on the A111 and A1005.

**SA62, page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279 – Expansion of Spurs training ground at Whitewebbs**

Spurs already has a vast amount of land alongside Whitewebbs Park which includes a number of buildings on the Green Belt and the loss of wildlife habitat. To expand this by

a further 42.5 hectares of land for “professional sport, recreation and community sports and leisure use” represents further loss of natural habitat in an area already well used for recreation and leisure use.

**SA2, page 321 – Palace Gardens -proposal to build tall buildings**

The proposal to include tower blocks at Palace Gardens in the historic town centre of Enfield is insensitive and completely at odds with the characteristics of the market town at the heart of Enfield.

While I support housing development and support the ambition to meet Enfield’s housing needs, I strongly object to the proposal to release Green Belt for housing or other purposes. Having spent the first 20 years of my career working in social housing I fully understand the need for more affordable homes in Enfield, but I believe that there are alternatives available to meet current and future housing targets without the need to destroy beautiful and historic parts of the Green Belt. The Green Belt is a precious resource that was established by our forebears with vision, and it must be protected and preserved for future generations.

The second half of my career was working for the NHS and I am all too aware of the serious health inequalities that exist in Enfield and across London. The removal of these treasured parts of the Green Belt, referred to as the Green Lung of London, will undermine the health and wellbeing of Enfield residents.

Our family has lived in Enfield for over 20 years, having moved from central London to raise our daughter in an environment that was rich in green space yet still within easy access to the city.

We use the parks and green spaces of Enfield every single day. I walk my dog in Trent Park or Forty Hall every day with additional walks in Town Park. We regularly use other footpaths in Enfield exploring the beautiful countryside within London’s Green Belt.

I also belong to an enthusiastic group of Nordic Walkers, walking every Monday at Trent Park and each Thursday walking across Hilly Fields, Whitewebbs and Forty Hall. We originally met through the Council’s own Active Over 50’s programme and have continued to walk together (subject to COVID restrictions) through the difficult last 2 years. Using the outdoor space to keep fit and active is vital to maintaining our health and wellbeing. Each week when we walk around Trent Park and look across the amazing views over the beautiful countryside with the skyline of London in the far distance, we despair at its proposed loss not just for us but for future generations.

Enfield’s Green Belt is too valuable to lose for all the many environmental, ecological, economic, public health and other reasons that have been identified, especially during the recent pandemic. The Council has a duty of care for 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.

Finally, I would remind councillors of their duty to **preserve Enfield’s heritage and to protect Enfield’s future.**

