

Dear Enfield Council

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important consultation.

I am writing to object to the following Policies: SP PL10, pages 80-87, and Figure 3.11; Policy SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3.10; Policy SA45: Land Between Camlet Way and Crescent Way, Hadley Wood, page 364; Policy SA54, page 374; Policy SA52 page 372; and Policy SA62 page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279 – all of which propose the de-designation of Green Belt for housing and other purposes.

Most of these sites are part of historic Enfield Chase, which played an important role in the development of Enfield. The remaining parts of the Chase are unique in the southeast and a rare and valuable landscape asset. The loss of these sites would cause permanent harm not only to the Green Belt, but also to the very character of the borough. Vicarage Farm is crossed by the Merryhills Way footpath, much used by Enfield residents and others for exercise and relaxation and the physical and mental health attributes of the footpath would be destroyed by development. The farmland could be put back into productive use growing local food for local people. Crews Hill is equally important to the borough and should not be destroyed. Its garden centres and other businesses provide employment and a resource for people from Enfield and beyond. 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.

In particular, I strongly object to [Policy SP PL 10, pages 80-87, and Figure 3.11](#)). Vicarage Farm is one of the last remaining equestrian facilities on the North London/Hertfordshire border, following the destruction for housing development of similar facilities such as Cowley Hill Livery Stables in Borehamwood. Vicarage Farm has unique facilities (namely the gallops, which back onto the bridleways in Trent Park), bringing a specific kind of tourism to the area. Vicarage Farm houses many horses and employs staff to look after these horses. These proposals, if accepted, will damage Enfield's economy as these livery clients will be forced to look for accommodation

elsewhere. The already oversubscribed remaining livery yards in the area will not be able to take on these clients, meaning that their business will be pushed into the territory of other councils such as Barnet. Further, Vicarage Farm attracts house buyers to the area: by allowing these proposals, Enfield Council would be authorising the destruction of the character of the area and removing a key, attractive facility, therefore discouraging prospective residents from to the area.

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. I believe that there are alternatives available to meet housing targets and that the Green Belt is a precious resource that should be protected and preserved for future generations. It 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.

The comments provided in this response to the consultation are my own views.