

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

I am writing to **object** to the following Policies: SP PL10, pages 80-87, and Figure 3.11; and Policy SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3.10.

These policies involve building on vast areas of the Green Belt, on sites which are part of historic Enfield Chase and currently provide a rare and highly valuable landscape resource. Historically Enfield Borough has preserved green spaces, making it an attractive area in which to live, and the loss of these sites would cause permanent harm to the Green Belt and to the character of the borough.

**I particularly OBJECT to the loss of Vicarage Farm to create an urban development, to be known as Chase Park, on open Green Belt countryside: Policy SP PL10, pages 80-87, and Figure 3.11.** The following are a few of the reasons why:

- Physical and mental health benefits from the enjoyment of natural open green spaces, away from roads and buildings, are incredibly important, as highlighted more than ever during the Covid pandemic. My family and I regularly walk on the Merryhills Way footpath to Trent Park or to the Ridgeway and see many others enjoying this space. The open views lift our spirits and exercise in clean air greatly benefits our general wellbeing. We see this Green Belt area being used by people of all ages, including primary school children, teenagers relaxing with friends, families, local and long distance walkers, people jogging, walking dogs etc. It is very well used for recreation and exercise, and development here would destroy the physical and mental health benefits from walking and relaxing in the unspoilt Green Belt land with its peacefulness and wonderful views. I have spoken to a lot of people in Enfield about this and no one is happy with these plans and find them a disgrace.
- This area is used throughout the year by local residents and is also easy to access for people living further away with good bus and underground services nearby.
- Environmental benefits of preserving the Green Belt to provide a break in high density urbanisation, including improving air quality, reducing high urban temperatures, helping manage flood risks. To build on this land would extend the urban sprawl and increase congestion and air and noise pollution due to the high numbers of new residential properties proposed. More road traffic will also inevitably follow with roads in and out of Enfield already carrying a constant stream of traffic.
- The vast extent of the proposed building work so close to established residential areas will have a serious detrimental effect on the quality of life for people, such as my family, living locally during the long building period. I recognise there is a need for new homes, but there are other better ways Enfield can deliver those goals and there are many flaws in the logic presented in these plans, for example we know full well there are brownfield sites and other derelict sites that homes could be built on, instead of destroying the Green Belt. There is absolutely no justification for building on Vicarage Farm whatsoever and will only do more harm than good, with the above reasons being just a few.

**I am also opposed to Policy SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3.10 relating to development at Crews Hill.** I believe:

- Local businesses should be protected and not destroyed, especially during a pandemic. These businesses provide jobs and offer a relaxing and enjoyable environment in which to shop and, along with productive farmland in this area of beautiful countryside, are also a valuable resource to the borough.
- Traffic congestion which is already bad enough and pollution will result from the proposed development and rural lanes will be lost, again a part of Enfield's character currently.

**Building on the Green Belt is not at all necessary and does not need to happen.** The Council has a duty of care for the Green Belt and not to destroy it, in **accordance with the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF]**, and I strongly oppose any intentions to release parts of it for development. Many urban areas within Enfield are in need of regeneration and building new housing within existing deprived built-up areas and brownfield sites which is widely available, that is where the priority should be. Genuinely affordable homes could be achieved in these locations, meeting Government targets, without putting the borough's future in the hands of wealthy developers and losing Enfield's heritage and the amazing benefits the Green Belt offers for current and future generations. These losses would be tragic and are totally unnecessary. There are urban areas begging for the regeneration that would benefit many Enfield residents. These plans are extremely unpopular and I find it baffling that councillors would want it to happen when they could lose their seats over this. I hope these short sighted plans are scrapped and that common sense prevails instead.

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