

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 would mention that it seems likely that the Government will abandon their electorally unpopular plans to build on Green belt land, and that I hope that will be the case.

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.

I visited Crews Hill again at the weekend. This area is so important as an area for relaxation and being apart from urban sprawl. There have been glasshouses and garden nurseries on this site for decades, it is unique. Do not ruin the special character by building here. Potentially we may need or want to use this green space for more acceptable agricultural uses, and that cannot happen if it has been built on.

I regularly take the 121 bus from Southgate to Enfield and that journey 'as is' is really relaxing. It would be a terrible mistake to build on this valuable green resource and would completely change the feeling of the area. Likewise I love the rural area by Whitewebbs and Bulls Cross - and you should not be intensifying the use of this area.

While I support some housing development and note 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. Increasingly, we need green space to counteract climate change and let excess rain drain. We should not be building on it.

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

