

To whom it may concern

I was brought up in Hadley Wood where I lived for the first 21 years of my life and where my parents still live in Crescent West, very close to Site SA45, and I am writing to strongly object to Enfield Council's proposal to build 160 new homes on our Green Belt land comprising Site SA45.

Overriding its protected status and building on Green Belt land should only be considered as a very last resort. The proposed development site here is centuries' old grassland which must be protected and conserved, as it serves many vital purposes, including improving air quality in the Borough, improving biodiversity and providing an important resource for carbon sequestration. It is also the likely site of the Battle of Barnet in 1471 and as such has unique historical importance.

Hadley Wood is a small settlement with very limited amenities and services – hardly any shops and businesses, no NHS services, only one (heavily oversubscribed) primary school. It is built on London Clay and already suffers from increasingly serious flood risk owing to development activities. It has among the worst public transport facilities in Great London, officially classified as poor with a Public Transport Accessibility Level (PTAL) range of between 0-1. Bus services are nearly non-existent and only serve elderly shoppers making their morning trips out of the Borough to High Barnet for essential supplies.

As for train services, and despite the considerable efforts of the Hadley Wood Rail User Group, of which I am a member, GTR Great Northern have repeatedly failed to provide train services anywhere near those expected within Greater London: there are not enough timetabled trains, especially during daytime and evenings and at weekends, and the service is unreliable. Residents have no option but to rely on car travel, which flies in the face of the Green agenda. So the mere existence of the station does not mean that Hadley Wood is a highly accessible location or well served by train services.

Such a significant proportional increase in Hadley Wood's population as proposed by the addition of 160 new homes would put intolerable strain on its infrastructure and amenities. Other potential sources of supply should be assessed first. It appears that inadequate consideration may have been given both to the considerable adverse consequences in Hadley Wood and to prioritisation of more suitable brownfield alternatives in the Borough away from the Green Belt. 160 homes is a tiny fraction of Enfield Local Plan's goal of 25,000 additional homes in the Borough but the adverse impact on the Hadley Wood

community would be disproportionate. Drainage and sewers are already inadequate. The pressure on neighbourhood infrastructure as well as amenities would be unsustainable and the environmental damage would be disproportionate to any benefit. And the proposed development contradicts the principles of Enfield's own Climate Action Plan.

For all these reasons, I consider that the proposed development is opportunistic and unnecessary and that inadequate consideration has been given to the considerable adverse consequences at Hadley Wood. Building on this Green Belt land would tear the green heart out of the neighbourhood and I wish to register my strong objection to this proposed development.