

Dear Sirs

Enfield draft Local Plan consultation

In our respective capacities as Member of Parliament for Chipping Barnet and ward councillor of High Barnet, we have been contacted by constituents concerned about the draft Enfield Local Plan and its potential impact on areas such as Monken Hadley, Hadley Green and Hadley Highstone. I am the member of Parliament for Chipping Barnet and Cllr David Longstaff represents the High Barnet ward which includes the areas of concern.

There are a number of policies in your draft Local Plan that worry us and would have an impact on the constituency including:

Site Allocation SA45 – Land between Camlet Way and Crescent West, Hadley Wood

An intensification zone of 800m around Hadley Wood Station

Proposals for tall buildings in Hadley Wood of up to 21m

We are deeply concerned that Enfield Council is proposing to release the Hadley Wood site from green belt, protection even though it adjoins extensive green belt in Barnet.

We believe that there will be clear harm to the green belt in Barnet if the land is released and developed for housing. Our constituents greatly value the green belt and the protection it affords to their neighbourhood.

We would have expected you to consult the planning department at the London Borough of Barnet to discuss this green belt release, given the impact on our borough. Surely both Councils should be working together to safeguard the green belt for the benefit of our local environment and quality of life?

The Monken Hadley Conservation Area is situated within 800m of Hadley Wood station and forms part of the Hornbeams Hill South Character Area. It immediately abuts the proposed green belt housing site. We have seen no assessments from Enfield Council which consider the harm this development proposal would do to the setting of the Conservation Area.

Our constituents rightly believe that Enfield's draft Local Plan proposals would have a detrimental impact on their immediate area and are worried that this would set a precedent for future green belt release.

The Barnet Society has contacted us to express their opposition, not least because the development envisaged would erode the green buffer that exists between our two boroughs, especially north and south of Hadley Road and Enfield Road. These attractive stretches of countryside are vital to preserving the separate identities of Barnet, Cockfosters, Enfield, and other settlements that would otherwise have merged into amorphous suburbia.

We are therefore opposed to the release of green belt land for housing in the Hadley Wood and Camlet Way area. We object to your plan as currently drafted. It needs to be reconsidered to reflect local circumstances. No grounds have been brought forward to justify this loss of green belt protection.

We also have serious concerns about other green belt development sites proposed for Holly Hill Farm, Crews Hill, and Vicarage Farm.

