

Dear Enfield Council

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

As a resident that was born and raised in Enfield, I am writing to let you know how strongly I feel against the proposed changes in your plan, which is clearly financially driven!

My property on Elmer Close backs on to Vicarage Farm and am therefore directly impacted by 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 dedesignation of Green Belt for housing and other purposes.

The open space behind my home is in constant use by walkers, dog walkers, and children alike; it is a local green space that has proved to be invaluable, particularly during the pandemic where mental wellbeing is of grave concern. The local wildlife here is also very apparent; we have moles nesting, pheasants, birds, not to mention the insects and trees that surround this beautiful open space.

Furthermore, the local infrastructure can in no way shape or form accommodate the additional 7500 homes you are proposing. The local traffic is already at breaking point; schools are oversubscribed with catchment areas nearing 0.6 miles. Above all, you are taking away green space when there are other inner borough brownfield sites that can accommodate these money motivated plans.

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.

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.