

In this period of increased concern about climate change and the future of our environment, and as the council has agreed that it is a climate emergency, I am very dismayed to now find that The draft Local Plan for Enfield includes extensive proposals to build on the green belt. This pandering to the demand from developers for virgin green space is something I might have expected from a Conservative administration not a Labour one.

I specifically object to the following parts of the Draft Local Plan:

§ The plan to build 3,000 new houses at a ‘deeply green’ ‘sustainable urban extension’ referred to as ‘Chase Park’ (also known as Vicarage Farm) on the open Green Belt countryside next to Trent Park either side of the A110 (Enfield Road) between Oakwood and Enfield town ([Policy SP PL 10, pages 80-87, and Figure 3.11](#));

§ The plan for the expansion of the Spurs football training ground to the north of Whitewebbs Lane up to the M25, comprising of 42.5 hectares of land, for “professional sport, recreation and community sports/leisure uses” ([SA62 page 383 & SP CL4 pages 277–279](#));

§ The plan for 3,000 new houses in a ‘sustainable settlement’ at Crews Hill with the potential for longer term expansion ([Policy SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3.10](#));

§ The plan to expand burial and crematorium space into part of the Firs Farm recreation and wetland site, which will harm an important local green space used by people exercising and playing sports (Policy BM DG 10, p. 133-137)

Demand for support infrastructure, schools and retail for example, does not seem to be addressed which implies further development demands are highly likely.

The planned development will significantly increase the use of motor transport in these areas, thereby contradicting the work of the living streets initiatives. It will contribute to increased emissions and affect our ability to meet climate targets. It will have an immediate negative impact for both the physical and mental health of any citizen of Enfield.

There is no doubt that there is unmet demand for housing, and particularly housing that is genuinely affordable. Building estates of executive homes and flats for private rent might keep the government happy but it will not genuinely address this shortage.

There are alternative options for meeting housing demand. A Labour administration should be prioritising the identification of brownfield or grey industrial sites for redevelopment not taking away the areas that act as the green lungs for the borough.