

Dear Enfield Council,

I am writing to you to ask you to stand up for the interests of your constituents, who elected you to office, and reconsider entirely the plans to build housing on Enfield's greenbelt, including Vicarage Farm and Crews Hill. As both a long time Enfield resident and Labour member, I am appalled and shocked by these proposals.

This plan would be devastating for Enfield, it would make our air less clean, our homes less desirable and our lives less pleasant. The abundance of green space is one of if not the most appealing thing about living in Enfield - to allow it to be destroyed by developers, in the name of profit, when there is existing brownfield land that has not been effectively utilised, would drastically impact the quality of life of Enfield's residents, current and future.

It is admirable that you intend to address the considerable need for housing in the borough, but this can only be the wrong way to do it. I am highlyly sceptical that the housing proposed will do anything at all to reduce rents in the borough, or to provide homes for those that really need it - instead I anticipate that greedy developers will build shoddy commuter housing that will be bought up by wealthy investors from out of the borough. Even more importantly, in light of the terrifying IPCC report, which itself pointed to the need to preserve green and wild spaces and curb urban sprawl as an essential part of the changes we as a species have to be prepared to make if we and our planet are to survive, the proposal to build on greenbelt land is remarkably shortsighted, backwards even - you are literally putting the lives of future generations at risk with this plan. Instead I urge you to please look again at the improvement of existing brownfield sites. You also write in the plan that you aim to avoid 'skyscrapers'. Why? Vertical development is an absolute must to realistically address housing needs without further degrading our natural world. Why would you choose to destroy natural spaces when vertical development could easily help provide a realistic solution to our housing needs? Is it simply because it is less profitable to do so? Please, please think again - this is the thin end of the wedge. We must not allow *any* of our greenbelt to be sold off - ever. Because once it's gone, it's gone forever.