

Dear Enfield Council

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important consultation.

I am writing to object to 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 de-designation of Green Belt for housing and other purposes.

Most of these sites are part of historic Enfield Chase, which has an important role in the development of Enfield. The other parts of the Chase are unique in the southeast and are a rare and valuable landscape asset. Any loss of these sites would cause permanent damage not only to the Green Belt, but also to the special character of the borough. Vicarage Farm is crossed by the Merryhills Way footpath which is well used by Enfield residents and others for relaxation and exercise and the mental health and physical benefits of the footpath would be destroyed by any development. Crews Hill is an equally important area for the borough and should not be destroyed. Its garden centres and other businesses provide employment and a resource for people from Enfield and beyond and is part of Enfield's long association with horticulture. 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.

I strongly object to the proposal to release Green Belt for housing or other purposes. 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. This is also the view of the Mayor for London.

It appears to me that it may possibly be more profitable to build housing on 'desirable' Green belt land rather than on brownfield sites. Hopefully this is not the reason behind these proposals.

The comments provided in this response to the consultation are my own views.