

I am writing to express my concerns on the draft housing plan. I have lived in Enfield since 1977. I have seen many changes in this time and not all are for the better, but of course this is a matter of judgement and personal preferences. Enfield has much history and green open spaces and ancient woodland. This is something that in recent times has become rare in towns and cities. I am proud of what we have and feel that if it is destroyed our environment will be poorer and less desirable and of course it can never be replaced.

In recent times with much discussion on climate change, planting trees and creating wild spaces to support wild life, and the drive for clean fresh air, it seems a tragedy to demolish and build on these areas. It is for these reasons I share the concerns expressed by Enfield Preservation Society.

I do not know where the justification comes from to build the quantity of houses in the plan. Nobody can forecast these things with any accuracy. I would prefer to see a more modest plan instead so that the pressure applied to the green sites around the Chase escape extensive development and undesired change as outlined by the Society. These are the Strategic Policies PL8, PL9 and PL10.

I would prefer to see brown field areas identified by the Society used and redeveloped in preference to the green sites. I feel this is much better for our area. It may be more expensive to develop but if the plans show the final outcome as a desirable attractive place to live with leisure features and landscaped green areas, which it could easily, surely this will sell it to potential investors and potential residents. The open green belt and wooded areas around Whitewebbs can continue to be used and perhaps sensitively developed to provide further leisure facilities. Building on the area south of the M25, Crews Hill and Whitewebbs Lane, will be the beginning of the end for the rural area it is. Even today the lanes in this area are carrying significantly more traffic and I fear this plan will destroy its nature.

I would therefore like to see alternatives like Harbet Road, Meridian Water East Bank and Brinsdown at least considered. I believe there are other areas that could also be considered. The ones mentioned are close to the Lee Valley area with all it has to offer.

As a general comment, the plan at 431 pages is very difficult to read and appreciate the detail. Also I like many are not totally familiar with planning law and legal requirements. I feel there should have been a much lower key survey carried out. Many residents will not even be aware of these proposals until the bulldozers roll on site. It has not been publicised well. I was always suspicious when I saw the financial justification for closing the Whitewebbs Golf Course and the Council promising it would not be built on. The financial statement was less than complete with what seemed to me to be major calculation errors. I feel the Council has had this area earmarked for future building and I hope they take feedback seriously.

