

Objection to the draft local plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021 **13 September 2021**

Dear Enfield Council,

Thank you for giving me the chance 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 SpPI9, pages 77-80 and concept plan figure 3.10; policy SA45: Land Between Camlet way and Crescent Way, Hadley Wood, pages 364; policy SA54, pages 374; Policy SA 372; and Policy SA62 page 383; and SP CL4 pages 277-279 – all of which propose the designation of Green Belt for housing and other purposes. All these sites are part of historic Enfield Chase, which played an important role in the development of Enfield. The remaining parts of the chase are unique in the southeast and a rare and valuable landscape asset. The loss of these sites would cause permanent harm not only to the Green Belt, but also to the very character of the borough. I am an Enfield resident and live close to the Vicarage Farm and am particularly opposed to the loss of this Green Belt land. In recent times with the added pressure of the pandemic, I have been made aware of how important it is to protect this precious resource, having used Merryhills Way footpath for exercise, relaxation and for my physical and mental health benefits. This footpath is much used by other Enfield residents too.

I note its importance as well, from a wildlife, ecology, and Climate Change perspective. In particular, as Salmon's brook which is a river running through this part of the Green Belt and which I have seen flood in the wintertime. This Green belt land forms part of a rural flood plain and drainage water store, protecting more urban areas, downstream such as, Edmonton Green. With Climate Change and the resulting flooding becoming a more prominent issue. This can only get worse, now and into the future, as our weather become more extreme. It is also the case the any development of this green belt land would be devastating for the wildlife and ecology of the area. I understand that this Local Plan strategy is to facilitate the development of 25,000 houses up to 2039. There must surely be enough brownfield sites in Enfield which should be considered for development before destroying this Green Belt land as I have seen noted by The Enfield Society, Enfield Roadwatch Better homes Enfield and Enfield Climate Action Forum.

I particularly appose to the loss of Vicarage Farm. The land is crossed by Merryhills Way footpath, much used by Enfield residents and others for exercise, relaxation and the physical and mental health attributes of the footpath would be destroyed by development. The farmland could even be put back into productive use growing local food for local people. Has the council's 'sound' local plan to allow development on Vicarage Farm been considered only because this particular land is owned by developers? Enfield councillors should know that this is a heavily used area by residents, and it would be devastating to lose this part of the green belt. Other areas need to be considered rather than this specific part of the Green Belt.

It is also the case that the council has a duty of Care for the green belt. This is in accordance with the London plan and the National Planning policy framework (NPPF). Any objectives to discharge parts of it should be taken out of the local plan. The Council has a duty of care for the Green Belt, in accordance with the London Plan and National Planning Policy framework (NPPF), and any intentions to release parts of it should be taken out of the local plan