

Dear Planners

I write to express concern over the proposed Enfield local plan which is currently out for consultation.

The plan includes a substantial loss of green belt areas and increase in concrete/the built environment which will cause an increase in pollution, flood water run off and rubbish at a time when climate change is an ever real threat to our daily lives and those of our children. It seems ill thought out and rushed with no real regard given to the current residents and users of these areas or the natural/human history of the area nor the irreparable damage done to the welfare of the borough's future taxpayer.

I am particularly worried that the local infrastructure in many of these areas will crumble under the weight of the proposed housing and other developments. Many of these roads barely cope with current levels of traffic (Whitewebbs Lane to the Bullsmoor Lane junction with the A10 being the obvious example) even before the current J25 works on the M25. Local schools, dentists and GP surgeries are already straining with the current level of demand.

One of the things which attracted me to settle in the borough of Enfield were the great open spaces of Whitewebbs, Trent Park, Forty Hill etc, let alone the calming effect of being able to drive through farmland just minutes away from the bustling urban area.

I am particularly worried about the proposed developments at Crews Hill ([Policy SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3.10](#)) and the expansion of Spurs training ground at Whitewebbs (([SA62 page 383 & SP CL4 pages 277-279](#))). At Crews Hill the community will be utterly changed and the whole nature of the area destroyed. These areas are in daily use by both business and locals walking the parks and the loss of the land and surrounding farmland can never be undone.

The addition of further (presumably highly secured and limited public access) training areas for Spurs loses further green land vital to soaking up pollution from the M25, run off from heavy rain (a more common feature of London life recently) and vital wildlife habitat. Again, the words 'community sports/leisure' use do not compensate for the loss of this habitat and benefit only a tiny proportion of the Borough's residents.

It is hard to believe that there are not other areas of brownfield land with already extant infrastructure which can be developed in the borough without losing vast tracts of its best feature - its natural beauty, parklands, the Chase and farmlands. The plan in its current form is not wanted by residents as we value the free of charge easy access to nature with its benefits for mental and physical health. It seems perverse that during a pandemic the council would seek to remove vast areas of the free green open spaces that helped its many residents to stay mentally well during the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021.

I ask the councillors and planners to reconsider such a hasty plan designed to benefit only those who can make money out of concreting the green belt and not those who currently live there, in the borough generally or who use these open spaces frequently.

