

Dear LBE Local Plan Officers

**Re Enfield – Draft Local Plan**

Thank you for publishing the Draft Local Plan, which I have read with interest. As I live in Winchmore Hill I will focus this response on the proposals for that area but, for the avoidance of doubt, please be clear that my observations and objections also relate to the similar proposals for all other areas of Enfield.

**Perspective**

Enfield, like large parts of London, dates from around 1875 in the transformation from rural England to suburbia with the general expansion of the population and everything that goes with it. Jobs, housing, traffic, transport, local and not so local businesses, schooling, medical care of all sizes, sporting facilities, a host of other infrastructure to support and, as the Council Leader has noted, the **absolutely essential** green spaces needed in abundance during the COVID 19 pandemic of 2020 and 2021 and, without a shadow of a doubt, continuing into the ongoing future.

Most of our green spaces have been put under enormous pressure by the massive increase in footfall. This has caused damage to most that is difficult and costly to repair and, whilst those repairs are in progress, the total loss of the areas affected for many months whilst re-growth is established and achieves footfall resilience. This process of damage, take out of service and repair, works in very large spaces like our large parks. It does not work in our smaller green spaces which risk being damaged permanently by the people whose wellbeing all green spaces need to serve. This reduces the amount of green, wellbeing, space available damaging the remaining space.

Extrapolating this cycle of damage, take out of service for repair, place more pressure on what is left, can only increase with a further substantial increase in population as proposed, causing a downward trend in well being space availability. Ultimately, the green spaces will become damaged beyond repair or any real notion of being green and pleasant land in which to achieve wellbeing.

Mother Nature has her limits to repair, as we are seeing with climate change and hence the Enfield Council Declaration of a Climate Emergency.

So why do the proposals in the Draft Local Plan seek to exacerbate the problems of high density living that is already prevalent in other areas of the Borough?

We have areas of the Borough that have pleasant green spaces that already have optimum footfall for much of the year. As referenced above, at certain times of the year that footfall is already excessive causing environmental damage. This is plain footfall, people walking is the cause.

Cycling, and increasingly electric bikes and electric scooters, in green spaces substantially increases that damage due to the higher pressure (weight to area) caused by wheels and speed vs feet.

The “green” measures being promoted now are actually counter-productive to wellbeing.

I can see no reason nor logic to creating an environment in Enfield that increases the current pressure on green spaces. To do so makes them too busy to be beneficial to the wildlife and of substantially degraded places of wellbeing.

**I object to** all aspects of the Draft Local Plan that will damage green spaces, whether classified as a park, sports ground, SA59, or Green Belt, PL8, PL9, PL10.

#### **High Density Living – SA32 and SA42**

It is well documented worldwide, not just in Enfield, that high density living causes substantial social and criminal problems. So why does the Draft Local Plan propose more high density living in SA32 and SA42 ?

We already have high density housing newly built in the Wards on the old Capitol House site. That development is not in keeping with the area.

High rise buildings inherently deprive existing buildings to their north sides of light and green tree lined horizons that they currently have. High rise buildings also provide overlook of existing low-rise buildings, to the detriment of existing neighbour’s privacy and the whole reason they chose, in many cases a lot of years ago, to live and work in the area of their choice, Winchmore Hill and Bush Hill Park, where these Draft Local Plan proposals are concerned.

**I object to** both proposals and all others that seek to building high density housing in currently low density areas.

#### **Firs Farm Crematorium – SA59**

The Draft Local Plan proposes to take approximately 25% of the Firs Farm area and turn it into a Crematorium.

The area proposed is approaching 10 acres. That is a huge area for a crematorium.

By comparison, the Enfield Crematorium on the A10 is about 1.4 acres. for the crematorium itself, considering the surrounding land to be dual use of coffin burial and urn walls.

The Draft Local Plan proposes high density, multi-storey accommodation for the living who have wellbeing needs, so why is low density accommodation proposed for the dead who have no such needs?

Looking at the adjacent cemetery, there appears to be plenty of space in the lengthy entrance leading to the chapel, including the chapel itself, to consider re-development there for the combined use of chapel and crematorium. There appears to be no justifiable reason to take new, green space and build on it, so reducing not only the green space at Firs Farm but also the all important sporting exercise area.

The Firs Farm sporting and exercise facilities need enhancing with re-developed, modern changing facilities together with the proposed café to support the sporting, recreation and general wellbeing and community uses for which the whole space, an Enfield heritage site, is already well used.

**I object to the SA59 proposals** and instead propose investment to enhance the identified area, and support the Friends of Firs Farm in their endeavours to do so.