

Enfield – Draft Local Plan

Dear LBE Local Plan Officers

Thank you for publishing the Draft Local Plan, which I have read with interest. I live in Winchmore Hill and am most interested in the proposed developments nearest to me but I have observations and objections to proposals for all other areas of Enfield.

The Borough has pleasant green spaces with high footfall for much of the year, increasing the population density while reducing the areas of green space will only exacerbate this problem.

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

New developments, such as that at the old Capitol House site will increase the population density of the area while providing little affordable housing. Those struggling to find a home are not helped by luxury flats, whatever percentage of the development is officially classed as “affordable”.

Winchmore Hill is a desirable area precisely because it has plenty of green space. tree lined horizons and little development over four stories in height. Building a large block on top of the Sainsburys supermarket will greatly degrade the local environment.

299 homes seems a lot to fit into the site, and there seems some vagueness in the plans - the phrase “indicative density may not apply” suggests there is no clear plan for the site as yet.

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, 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 Firs Farm Wetlands have only recently been developed into a popular and attractive green space. Building a large Crematorium and burial ground in the middle of the area does not seem to be the correct next step for the 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.

A report by the Enfield Climate Action Forum outlines the housing problems in the Borough, which I appreciate are acute. But it also outlines how the plans for both high rise developments and those proposed for Green Belt land are unlikely to address these issues as they are driven by commercial demands. Enfield has plenty of brownfield sites and a more creative use of existing sites can go some way to addressing the housing issues in the Borough without either building on Green Belt land or greatly increasing the density of already developed areas.