

Dear Enfield Council,

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

Thank you for the opportunity 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 SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3.10; Policy SA45: Land Between Camlet Way and Crescent Way, Hadley Wood, page 364; Policy SA54, page 374; Policy SA52 page 372; and Policy SA62 page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279 – all of which propose the de-designation of Green Belt for housing and other purposes.

Most of these sites are important parts of the history of Enfield, which played an important role in the development of Enfield. They are unique, rare and valuable landscape assets, with ancient woodland being lost. The loss of these sites would cause permanent harm not only to the Green Belt, but also to the very character of the borough. There are sufficient brownfield sites across the borough that can be utilised for redevelopment alternative. The pandemic has reinforced the importance of green spaces for wellbeing and escapism from the densely populated, polluted residential areas.

Building hard standing over the greenbelt areas would also impact the already overwhelmed drainage systems and potentially increase in flooding especially with climate change.

The transport infrastructure is also another key factor in my objection. These developments will likely increase pollution levels and congestion. The pollution levels in the borough already exceed the World Health Organization guideline limits for particulate matter. There is already a vast strain to public services in Enfield, not enough doctor surgeries, schools and hospitals to accommodate the already vastly populated borough,

Vicarage Farm is crossed by the Merryhills Way footpath, much used by Enfield residents like me, and others for exercise, relaxation and the physical and mental health, which has proved vital during the pandemic. The footpath would be destroyed by development. The farmland could be put back into productive use, growing local food for local people. Crews Hill is equally important to the borough and should not be destroyed. Its garden centers and other businesses provide employment and a resource for people from Enfield like me and beyond. Instead of losing Crews Hill for housing, its horticultural activities should be encouraged and enhanced so that it can once again be a hub for food and plant production.

While I support housing development and support the ambition to meet Enfield's housing needs, I strongly object to the proposal to release Green Belt for housing or other purposes. I believe that there are alternatives available to meet housing targets and that the Green Belt is a precious resource that should be protected and preserved for future generations. It is too valuable to lose for all the many environmental, ecological, economic, public health and other reasons that have been identified, especially during the recent pandemic. I also feel this could increase local flooding. The Council has a duty of care for the Green Belt, in accordance with the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF], and any intentions to release parts of it should be taken out of

the local plan.

The comments provided in this response to the consultation are my own views.