

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 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. Vicarage Farm is crossed by the Merryhills Way footpath, much used by Enfield residents and others for exercise and relaxation and the physical and mental health attributes of the footpath would be destroyed by development. The farmland could be put back into productive use growing local food for local people. We have learned how important access to the outdoors is to our physical and mental well being during the recent pandemic - Trent Park has been incredibly busy in the last 18 months with people, not just from the borough but from all of London, and the landscape of Vicarage farm is an intrinsic part of the enjoyment and benefits of Trent Park. The Merryhills footpath provides a

walk through beautiful Green belt countryside from the edge of Enfield Town Crews to Trent Park and effectively doubles the size of the green space that can be enjoyed. This landscape of traditional small fields with mature hedgerows and trees is also a rich and complementary habitat for the wildlife that inhabit the denser woodland of the country park. It seems contradictory to be promoting the planting of trees to the North of Hadley Road at the same time as a proposal to develop 140 hectares of farmland to the South of it is being considered; where is the joined up landscape? Where is the joined up thinking?

Crews Hill is equally important to the borough and should not be destroyed. Its garden centres and other businesses provide employment and a resource for people from Enfield 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. 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.