

Dear Enfield Council

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important consultation.

We are 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.

This will also extremely affect the wildlife, the loss of habitat for all manner of species and biodiversity which will be lost forever to this area. Once the green belt has gone it cannot be bought back. It will also have a detrimental impact on the way Enfield currently looks and feels. We have grown up in this area and rejoice in the fact that we have the green belt not far from our doorstep. It is a plus which visitors etc acknowledge of Enfield. We are glad to have it on our doorstep and it has been an intrinsic part of our lives and should be maintained for future generations. This Council should be seen to be custodians of the green belt, to maintain it as it is and to look after it for the enjoyment of future generations.

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. Enfield Road would never be the same again.

Crews Hill is equally important to the borough and should not be destroyed. Its garden centres and other businesses provide employment and a resource of leisure 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. If COVID 19 has taught us anything, it is about how we should appreciate the resources we have (i.e.) growing our own vegetables and enjoying being outside in the open air with nature. Crews Hill has over the years played an invaluable resource for achieving these feelings of general mental health and well-being.

While we support housing development and support the ambition to meet Enfield's housing needs, we strongly object to the proposal to release Green Belt for housing or other purposes. We 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 when nature and the green outdoors had a major benefit on our wellbeing.

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 our own views.

Please note this response is from two persons.

