

Dear Sirs,

I'm writing to you to express my objection to any proposal in the local plan to build on Enfield Greenbelt Land, in particular, the proposed development of 3000 house on Vicarage Farm. The said area is already densely populated with access to services, schools and GP surgeries heavily oversubscribed. The roads in the area are regularly at a standstill and already heavily impact on the pollution in the area. Whilst these reasons are fundamental to the infrastructure of the borough, I understand some councillors have insultingly suggested that somehow residents west of the borough has been having it easy by being situated nearer to the greenbelt. The argument is false, without evidence and designed to cause offence and promote disharmony and divide between Enfield residents.

Enfield is historically a green borough and should remain so. It is a unique selling point which has attracted wealth and businesses to the area and will continue to do so for years to come.

The Highlands ward is one of two wards without a park. All services and youth provision are situated in the east of the borough. The residents west of the borough do not complain they pay for services they never benefit from and do not recognise the needs of their fellow residents. All residents benefit from and use the greenbelt to run businesses, exercise and for their mental well-being. It is essential to preserve this area at all costs in order to protect the planet, the local wildlife, trees and plants upon which our very existence depends.

During the pandemic the Green Belt areas were heavily used by residents from all sides of the borough as main parks such as Trent Park and Forty Hall were overcrowded, and residents regularly turned away and prevented access.

The true impact of Brexit and the ongoing Covid pandemic is still ongoing and cannot be fully assessed yet. It is however already apparent there are now vast numbers of vacant unused brownfield sites and buildings in around Enfield and the surrounding London areas, including Claverings Industrial Estate, Charles Babbage House, large areas of land situated near to the M25 that the Council is proposing to or have already sold to Tottenham Hotspurs Football Club – all of these sites and others could if modified and redeveloped could significantly positively contribute to meeting the borough's housing needs.

Development of the Greenbelt would restrict the potential future expansion of the borough in other ways, including any ability to develop and improve transport links which I believe will be fundamental to resolving the country's future generation housing needs.

The proposed draft local plan suggests building on green belt will meet the Borough's housing needs and yet it fails to make any suggestion or address what would happen in the future once this land is built on. The housing question will in fact remain unanswered and we and future generations would have lost our greatest asset, the Green Belt.

The pandemic has shown there will be a dramatic change in the way communities work and live in the future; with more people working from home and preferring to live further from London and move to quieter, less crowded areas, more scenic places of beauty with less crime and antisocial behaviour issues. I believe that transport links across our country will be the key to UK residents enjoying better housing and having the choice of where they live.

In the words of my children when I told them the Enfield Council was proposing to build on the fields and trees, killing the local nature, causing significant environmental damage and increasing risk of flooding; they replied: "We are killing ourselves"; and that is exactly what the council will do if it refuses to listen to residents.

The council has already wasted so much public money on schemes residents do not want, a good example being the dire impact of heavy pollution caused by the daily traffic standstill created in Southgate and Palmers Green areas. I am growing more and more disillusioned and concerned about the competence of the current cabinet. I will continue to campaign against flawed, poorly designed policies that are not in the interests of Enfield and its residents; of which this proposed draft local plan is one.