

Dear Enfield Council,

My family have lived in Hadley Wood since 2011, our two youngest children have attended the local primary school (from the year we arrived until the youngest left in 2020), and my wife is currently Chair of Governors at Hadley Wood School. We also have two older children and our whole family regularly use the local area for walking, running, cycling and exercising our dog. We all value the local surroundings that make such a contrast to our time commuting to and working in central London. This is, in fact, what drew us to this area when we moved out from Palmer's Green in 2011.

We are writing to object to the proposed site allocation and intensification plans, which would allow the development of 160 homes on Green Belt land in Hadley Wood. The key points we object to are:

- 1. Lack of sustainability** - with most utilities, services and secondary schools are not within walking distance and would thus the development would increase car-use in the area as the railway station will not cater for all commuters and so many more would be travelling to High Barnet or Cockfosters stations. Cars already travel at high speed in this residential area, making it dangerous for residents (particularly children), and the additional cars from this development would exacerbate this issue. Also, two of our children already travel from Hadley Wood to Southgate School (by bus and/or car) and they frequently have to wait for extended periods in the bus or car in the mornings on Cockfosters Road as that road is already over-capacity and incredibly busy at main commuting times. The congestion causes air pollution and thus additional cars would increase climate change effects.
- 2. Schooling** – Hadley Wood Primary School is already over-subscribed and there is no scope for changing this to two-form entry due to lack of access on local roads, with traffic for the current single-form entry already a headache and giving issues to local residents.
- 3. Lack of local Infrastructure** – The railway station is seemingly used as a panacea for this site plan when there is not adequate local infrastructure to support 160 more homes in this area. Significant investment would be needed to improve access to healthcare, services, shopping and leisure facilities, but significantly to improve drainage and sewers, where existing drainage problems next to the development prevail.
- 4. Save Our Green Belt** – There are more than 2,500 empty properties in Enfield that could be used for residential housing, and brown field sites with better transportation links and associated infrastructure that can host such developments. The Green Belt must be protected and conserved, especially where it serves vital purposes including the separation from Barnet and Potters Bar, helping air quality in the local boroughs and its associated biodiversity. The centuries' old grasslands are a valuable resource for carbon sequestration, any destruction of such grassland would clearly represent a material negative.

5. **Conservation Area** – these draft plans are incongruent with the guidelines of the Local Conservation Area around Hadley Wood Station on Crescent West/East and Lancaster Avenue and will undoubtedly lead to intensification and would cause harm to the heritage aspects of the local area.

We are therefore making the same request as many others in our local area that this proposed site allocation is removed from the next edition of the Local Plan, it is a totally unnecessary and inappropriate plan for such local grasslands and lead to an unsustainable intensification of Hadley Wood area. The Green Belt status for this land should be retained and the draft plan withdrawn.