

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. It would strip out some of the most character filled sites and areas that we have.

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. 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. It is a much celebrated area that is greatly used, valued much further afield than Enfield, and impossible to replace. 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.

I understand that the council's target of 25,000 new homes could be achieved if the draft plan is approved as it stands, but I do not agree with the notion that if parts of it are changed to exclude Green Belt land, that the plan as a whole is rendered unworkable and fails to deliver the target figures. Other solutions should be, and can be, investigated.

The Plan should not include Vicarage Farm, Crews Hill Golf Course, and other Green Belt locations. New homes can be built without slowly chipping away at the lungs of London, and I stand with the Mayor of London, that we should collectively do everything in our power to preserve the Green Belt for future generations.

With climate change, air pollution and other negative impact environmental issues, we need more green spaces, trees and wetlands. The council has embarked on addressing some of these issues, however, if there is to be more development on Green Belt land, then what the council are currently doing, in planting trees and building wetlands, will render the Enfield Chase Restoration inefficient, even more trees and wetlands will need to be provided.

Development on Green Belt land will increase traffic flow, congestion and pollution, and will undoubtedly affect our collective physical and mental health.

The argument that just because the east of the Borough is densely developed, then the western boundaries should also be densely developed, is shortsighted, confrontational and has no basis in logical thought.

London's Green Belt benefits us all and cannot be replaced once developed on.

These words are my own views, please take them into full consideration.

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