

Dear Enfield Council,

Comment re: Draft Local Plan **Policy ref PL10**

I write in response to the Draft Local Plan consultation and would be grateful if this response to the consultation is fully considered please.

I oppose all Green Belt aspects of the Draft Local Plan connected with construction upon Green Belt or a policy to remove Green Belt status of any areas. I write specifically regarding **Policy reference PL10 (section 3.10) 'Chase Park'** but my comments refer equally to all current Green Belt areas.

We are in a time of Climate Crisis. The IPCC (Integrated Panel on Climate Change) is the UN body for assessing the science relating to climate change. The IPCC published their sixth report in August this year (2021) which is specifically to inform policy makers worldwide. The report states that climate change is 'unequivocal'. At the press conference accompanying the publication of the report it was made extremely clear that unless immediate action is taken, a climate catastrophe is ahead. It was made clear that as well as reducing fossil fuel usage, the protection and restoration of green spaces is key to reducing the impact of climate change. Concreting over and building on Green Belt is absolutely the wrong course of action now that we have very clear knowledge that we are in a climate emergency. Simply de-designating Green Belt land is completely disingenuous and can only destroy the environment however it is labelled.

The Green Belt policy has been a perfectly good and well respected policy to stop urban sprawl since the 1940's. After the policy has been upheld for c60 years, it would be absolute environmental disaster for Enfield Council to contrive an excuse to build on Green Belt land at the very moment the planet acknowledges the climate crisis is truly upon us.

Enfield Council should genuinely regard the fact that much of the borough is Green Belt as a privilege and responsibility rather than an opportunity for building. Our councillors are custodians of this policy with a responsibility to uphold it for future generations.

This current Draft Plan builds further to the November 2015' New Plan for Enfield 2017 – 2032'. At Section 3.5.4 the document states (Enfield has) '*...areas of historic parkland including Enfield Chase, Forty Hall and Whitewebbs Park. Section 3.5.5 states 'The landscapes are of strategic importance to the borough providing a setting for the built-up areas and playing a key role in providing opportunities for recreation, nature conservation and agricultural activities.'* These areas were well regarded in 2015, as we are so much more aware of the need for green spaces and biodiversity now than then, these statements hold even more value.

The Draft Local Plan discusses 'high density development' at Chase Park. The plan makes no mention at all about car use and all associated pollution. The proposed development would very likely introduce many thousands of cars to the area. This would be massively polluting to the

area and the roads that will serve it. I strongly feel it would be a mistake to think that people living in family accommodation would not have cars as the primary method of transport. If left as Green Belt, this simply would not happen and the 'lungs of London' would be left to breathe.

Finally, given other sites for construction across the borough (such as A10/Southbury development, Chase Farm Hospital housing, Cockfosters development of Black House Tower to name just a few) I feel there are no 'exceptional circumstances' that could justify building upon or de-designating Green Belt. With a little imagination suitable sites can be found to satisfy housing needs that are less destructive to unspoiled land.