

To the Councillors of Enfield Council,

I am writing to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed development of the area known as Vicarage Farm on the open Green Belt countryside next to Trent Park and either side of the A110 (Enfield Road). This is referred to in the Draft Local Plan (Policy SP PL 10, pages 80-87, and Figure 3.11). I do not believe this huge new housing development is necessary, nor in keeping with the area, and building it would cause irreparable harm to the local wildlife in addition to fundamentally changing the character of this area for the worse.

My family and I moved to this area from central London in 2013 specifically to be close to Green Belt land, and we use the public footpath crossing the fields from World's End to Trent Park every single week for the benefit of our physical and mental health. The area is a haven for wildlife and wild flowers and it has proven a haven for my family as well during the Lockdowns of the past 18 months - we have spotted myriad birds, rabbits and even the odd deer on our walks, and my three children's interest in nature has been sparked and nurtured by these experiences. I appreciate the plans will probably retain the footpath, but walking through a housing estate is nothing like walking across open fields surrounded by nature and fresh air. I beg you to please reconsider and find an alternative site for the houses you claim are necessary.

Furthermore - as you know - these fields are part of the historic Enfield Chase, which is a rare and valuable historic landscape. Replacing it with 3000 houses does not transform it into a 'deeply green' 'sustainable urban extension' - it simply destroys a piece of history and turns it into a massive estate that the area simply does not need. It will increase air and water pollution and road traffic, overload local services such as schools and doctors' surgeries, and ruin the character of the area. Surely the events of the past 18 months have proven that the world is changing quickly and in unexpected ways and that population growth and movement is also changing. The data the plan is based on is surely out of date and therefore it should be revised.

Please, please do not proceed with the development of this area - or at least consider reducing its size so that it doesn't completely destroy the countryside feel, drive away the wildlife, and take away a wonderful, healthy and beautiful natural resource for local people. In an era of climate change we should be conserving the open spaces we have, not building all over them. We love so much about Enfield and it has truly become our home, but this plan for our town is deeply flawed, unwanted and unnecessary. It is a mistake and I implore you to please change your plans.

