

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my objection to the proposed development on areas of the green belt. My understanding is that the Green Belt was created to prevent urban sprawl and to ensure that there is countryside next to urban areas. I believe that we need to be looking to develop brownfield sites first and protecting local green spaces and our Green Belt in the fight against climate change. I am aware that there are multiple sites being considered and that some of these do involve brownfield/already developed areas. However, my fear is that areas that have not yet been developed are often seen as an easier or quick fix option but once those green areas have been lost, they are gone forever and we need to think about the legacy for future generations.

The areas I particularly object to are the proposed development of Crews Hill (Strategic Policy SP PL9: Crews Hill) and the development of land between Oakwood and Enfield (Strategic Policy SP PL10: Chase Park).

Over the last 18 months or so we have been more restricted as to how far and where we could travel due to Covid. This, to me, has emphasised the need for more open spaces locally rather than less. The parks were overflowing with people getting their daily exercise and every green space was full of people so that it was actually, at times, difficult to observe the recommended safe distances. Locally we have already seen development of parts of Trent Park as well as 4 houses built in Oakwood Park. One of my personal joys during lockdown was to be able to walk along the edge of Trent Park, looking out over fields and hearing skylarks singing. We need to have wild areas so that we can appreciate nature.

My concerns are for the future generations. If we keep building on more and more of the green belt then those areas will be lost to future generations and we will have more and more people trying to use smaller and smaller areas. This in turn puts pressure on those green areas and on the wildlife inhabiting those areas.

I also have concerns that the roads in parts of Enfield are already incredibly busy and congested which impacts people's journey times and adds to the pollution.

There are a number of references to how developing the area will provide more local jobs in the area and that people will be able to walk to work. Whilst there might be more jobs while work is in progress, I do not see that there will be enough new jobs in the long term, given that the local population and therefore the number of people looking for work will also increase. In addition, we are seeing more and more local office buildings changing into residential properties, there are very few big local employers and local wages are low so that there are few local employment options. I believe that many people will either be forced to seek work further afield or will opt to commute into central London or round the M25 which will put more pressure on transport services and on the road network.

As regards Crews Hill, this is such a special and important area which is immensely popular with people as a centre for all horticultural resources. It is also a popular meeting place with the various cafes, children's play areas and pub. Crews Hill also offers employment opportunities in the various garden centres, shops and food/drink outlets. There is nowhere quite like Crews Hill.

I feel passionate about looking after our wonderful green areas and protecting the green belt for future generations as well as ensuring that wildlife has protected areas too. Once these green areas have been developed, they are lost forever.

I hope that you will take my objections into consideration.