

Dear Enfield Council

As a resident of Enfield since 1986 I have lived in both the eastern and western parts of the borough and I feel compelled to object most vehemently to the Draft Local Plan for Enfield and the proposals to destroy the Green Belt. The Draft Local Plan as it stands represents a dereliction of duty of those entrusted with the protection of the Green Belt which is an asset of Enfield residents. My objections are set out below.

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

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.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY (NPP) FRAMEWORK HAS BEEN DISREGARDED:

The Local Plan does not take account of the Government commitments to protecting and enhancing the Green Belt. The National Planning Policy Framework requires local authorities to take account of constraints in the area such a Green Belt, when deciding how many houses to plan for. The NPP Framework outlines strong protections for Green Belt land and states that a Green Belt boundary may be altered only in exceptional circumstances. The Framework empowers communities to use the Local Plan to designate Local Green Space which can be protected as if it were Green Belt. Instead, Enfield Council are doing the exact opposite and are intent on destroying existing Green Belt.

Policy SP PL9: CREWS HILL:

The Local Plan to build on Crews Hill will mean the destruction of a valuable economic asset. Crews Hill is unique in the retail offering it provides. The many garden centres and other businesses located in Crews Hill are key to the economy of Enfield providing employment and a resource for the people of Enfield and others who travel to it from many parts of the UK. Crews Hill is part of our borough's cultural and economic character and should not be destroyed. I personally spend a considerable sum with the businesses in Crews Hill on a regular basis and am appalled that Enfield Council intend to destroy such thriving businesses which promote the fostering of our personal green spaces and be a hub for food and plant production.

Policy SP PL10 - HEALTH AND MENTAL WELLBEING

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. 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. Enfield Councillors have a duty of care to those of us who live in the borough. At a time of environmental crisis we are seeing Enfield Council propose the

destruction of our Green Belt. All residents in all parts of the borough are able to enjoy the Green Belt. If built on, Enfield Councillors will have destroyed it for all residents.

ALTERNATIVES

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. Enfield Council has made misleading statements in its Summer 2021 update where Cllr Nesil Caliskan incorrectly claims Enfield has a statutory duty to provide an additional 1,246 new homes each year - this is not correct. The homes proposed would not be affordable to the Enfield is aiming to house. The benefits would be to the developers and not the local people who would lose access to the Green Belt space lost forever and would also see further congestion on the roads and yet more pressure on the social infrastructure. 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. I have two adult children who have chosen to live in Enfield with their children and they should be allowed to continue to enjoy the benefits the green belt brings to all of us who live here. 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.

The comments provided in this response to the consultation are my own views.