

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. 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. Can that really be justified with no alternative option available? It seems to me and people I speak to, that this proposed building on such protected land goes against so much of what we have been told is important for us over the past 18 months and little regard is being shown to the future wellbeing of local residents. 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. I personally know so many people that come from far and wide to Crews Hill, it surely must be one of the main tourist attractions in this part of the country as it has one of the largest concentrations of specialist **garden centres** , nurseries and aquatics centres in the UK and indeed Europe. In these critical times for climate change when we are being encouraged on one hand to plant trees and create gardens, how can anyone sanction concreting over this haven of horticulture and believe this is not going to have a detrimental effect on pollution and the world around us. It is for many people, young and old, a day out to visit Crews Hill, including a meal, and the loss of all those 'spontaneous' purchases would be catastrophic for the local economy and the greenhouse effect. Its garden centres and other businesses provide employment and a resource for people from Enfield and beyond. 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.

The comments provided in this response to the consultation are my own views and I sincerely hope you will think very carefully before taking action that cannot be reversed and will change the fabric of Enfield forever.

