

Hello,

I would like to raise an objection to Enfield Council's draft local plan to build 24 houses on Fords Grove car park. My objections are based on the following issues.....

Increased traffic and parking issues

Currently Fords Grove is overwhelmed by cars parking along it for access to the local shops, the near by train station and other local facilities. It is extremely rare that we are able to park within 100-200m of our front door. With two young kids this makes it extremely difficult to transport food shopping and the kids safely from car to home. We also have elderly relations who visit regularly to help with childcare and often as they arrive after 9am can not park on the street or within reasonable walking distance at all (my father in law has severe walking difficulties due to a recent toe amputation). With the new bus route on Farm road many of those residences have also lost their parking and have now been forced to park on Fords Grove. In short parking for local residence is at capacity on these streets. With the loss of the car park and additional homes this will only be made worse.

More extensive building work

The recent "New River View" development (approx 100 apartment) on the old 794 Capitol House plot has meant 3 years of loud building work, cranes and trades works parking and littering on Fords Grove. Another new development of this nature straight away would like mean another 2-3 years of this meaning the more prolonged and disruptive work centred around this small spot for local residence.

Proximity to local school

Our children attend Highfield Primary school and this proposed site back right onto the school playing field. The work would mean more noise pollution for the children and once completed more traffic, more multi-story building hemming in the view from the school fields and the a loss of green space (the car park has several old, beautiful and well established trees then border the school field).

Local Facilities

- The loss of a major supermarket in the area will force people to have to drive further. This would especially affect the elderly and disabled residents and increase car usage on local roads.
- No supporting community infrastructure planned which will lead to an overstretch of existing facilities such as schools, doctors' surgeries etc.

I also have a wider objection to the proposed plans on the Sainsbury's and wetland sites in the area along with the Fords Grove car park on environmental and community grounds,

- This development will lead to the destruction of habitat and woodlands – the site is home to at least three different species of woodpecker (greater/lesser spotted and green varieties) as well as trees with protection orders (poplars and oak trees). Bats live around the Farm Road carpark and surrounding houses and the loss of trees in the area will mean a loss of their habitat.

- The New river area next to the car park currently is home to a Cormorant, Moor Hens, Ducks, Geese, Bats, Coots and a large number of small birds.

- The green space at the Wetlands and Sainsburys is especially useful for residents who live in the surrounding flats and do not have gardens

- The area is used by families and elderly alike, which contributes to the health and wellbeing of all residents of Enfield

- The newly developed wetlands have seen a rise in the number of birds, insects, bees and other animals in the area. Not to mention provided a welcome focal point for community projects in the area.

Pollution levels will increase with the extra need for cars, people and a reduction greenery or trees

Other issues

- This development will need to offer housing in keeping with the character of existing housing in Winchmore Hill. Enfield residents require larger, affordable family housing which this development will not be able to offer.

- Inappropriate choice of site given the close proximity of existing traditional historical properties.

- These developments will lead to an over development of the area given the recent and future developments along Green Lanes - Travis Perkins, Capitol House etc

- There will be construction vehicle disruption and increased building work traffic on a road (Green Lanes) already congested especially at peak times.

- There will be an impact on the skyline of Enfield and not in keeping with the existing character of the area.

Lack of parking will create a huge impact on the local businesses who already have been hit hard economically the last few years

Our family love this area, all our friends from the area rave about the green spaces, safe streets and local community. Most of all we all love it as a great space to raise young families. Please consider the community and environmentally impact when making your decisions on these matters as these are the characteristics which make Winchmore Hill the beautiful and friendly place we know.

