

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. 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. 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.

Further, I am objecting to the following Policies:

- SA62 page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279 - because they transfer part of Whitewebbs Park, a public amenity, into private management. I reject the Council's analysis that Whitewebbs Golf Course was losing money and call for its reinstatement.
- Policy SA52 page 372, which would remove part of Rammey Marsh, a wildlife area and public amenity, from the Green Belt.
- I am also objecting to the tall building policies on pages 156-160, Figure 7.3, Figure 7.4 and Policy DE6, and SA2 Palace Gardens Shopping Centre page 321 which propose areas for and the acceptable height of tall buildings which, in many cases

would mar the landscape and are unnecessary because other lower-rise building forms could provide the same accommodation, as stated in the policy.

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.

There remain many areas of both Brownfield and Greyfield areas across the borough that are underdeveloped, some of which already contain some infrastructure, including local roads, old railway and underground lines, that can be more economically re-developed and provide Enfield council and residents with a much stronger ROI. Some of these areas too deserve investment and it would significantly improve the lives of local residents in these areas, a much more worthwhile and sensible approach than destroying parts of our much needed and critical Green Belt.

Let's take Meridian Water as an example - it was hailed as Enfield's flagship redevelopment project to deliver 10,000 homes, but how many homes have been built so far? The lack of progress here needs to be addressed, there is also much more space at this site to accommodate more homes and expanding this or exploring near by industrial park areas would be much more sensible than going after our valuable Green Belt.

At a time when the whole country is undergoing much uncertainty and change on the back of Brexit, Climate Change, Covid-19 and significantly on the back of Covid-19 which has impacted and instigated a major shift in both people's choice of lifestyle but also working patterns (for example of the three working adults in our household, two are now working from home on a permanent basis for 80% of our working week due to new smart/flexible working put in place by our employers) - now is NOT THE TIME to put in place or explore a 20+ Year plan!

The pandemic has also driven many families to the suburbs, we have recently witnessed the arrival of a number of working professionals and their families to Enfield, moving from more central boroughs like Islington, Camden etc, and whilst we welcome them, their reasoning is for green spaces, the very thing you are attempting to cut down on by de-classifying parts of our valuable Green Belt.

You will already be aware of the immense pressures on infrastructure locally - primary and secondary schools are over subscribed as it is, traffic congestion on A roads but also small residential roads is chronic daily, further impacted by the creation of LTN's. Chase Farm no

longer has an A&E and was downgraded some years back, heaping even greater pressure on already stretched services at both the North Mid. and Barnet hospitals!

I am also confused that many of our local Enfield MP's have all publicly stated their opposition to encroaching on our Green Belt, so too has the London Mayor and further the National Planning Policy Framework states that 'Green Belt boundaries should only be altered where exceptional circumstances are fully evidenced and justified' - I am sorry but this Enfield Draft Plan does not prove this to be the case and should therefore be denied, as it simply has not explored other more viable options as I've stated earlier, namely Brownfield and Greyfield sites etc.

I sincerely implore you to think about the irreversible damage and negative impact this Draft Local Plan will have on both current and future generations - our Greenbelt is critical on so many levels, for our mental and physical health and wellbeing so severely impacted by Covid-19, as some form of protection to the Climate Emergency that is happening NOW, that Enfield Council itself declared in 2019, as flood prevention measure, quality of the air we breathe, wildlife, biodiversity, the list is endless!! There are just too many other viable options to explore first, so many derelict office, retail, industry spaces or poorly built/derelict old housing that can be redeveloped first - once green space is lost it is lost forever! We need to protect our green space and live within the space we have already built on!

We need to put life, our environment and our future generations above economic interests once and for all!!

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