

Dear Enfield Council

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation which I believe to be of the utmost importance to the future of the borough.

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.

The proposed development would destroy large parts of Enfield Chase. This is land that has never been built on previously. What is proposed is a one way transition that cannot be reversed. It is not right that we should forfeit all future generation's benefit of this green space, just because it's a relatively easy way to solve a current housing shortage.

Enfield Chase acts as a **corridor for wildlife**. Insects, birds and mammals all use this space to continue the existence of nature. Removing this corridor will further reduce the biodiversity of the area making the region a human-only ecosystem. On a basic level, it is wrong to attempt to remove all habitats other than those of humans. It is also unwise as we are heading towards a **climate disaster** and removing nature's habitats will only weaken our position. It is not correct to assume that it is other region's responsibility to look after their environment, whilst we concrete over ours. This is our planet, and we have a duty to look after it at a local level.

This countryside acts as a **green buffer** between the built up areas of Enfield. Without this buffer, north London will continue its journey to become an uninterrupted suburbia, with reduced character, reduced wildlife and reduced sense of place.

The garden centres of Crews Hill provide a **gardening hub** in North London. They help communities across the borough engage with their gardens, creating miniature green corridors across the region. By removing the garden centres, it is likely that less people

will take up gardening, gardeners will find it harder to get the equipment they need, and less gardening will take place. As a result, this proposed plan not only destroys the large green spaces of Enfield, but also hurts the gardens of Enfield. This plan is a comprehensive attack on the wildlife and nature of Enfield.

The current pandemic is showing how important our green spaces are for **mental health** as well as physical health. The pandemic has created a surge in mental health problems. During the recent 3 lockdowns, a vast number of people frequented the local green spaces to help cope with the desperate situations they found themselves in. Removing these spaces will remove a key tool in tackling the current and future mental health emergencies. We would be unwise to assume that this is the last pandemic. It would be foolish to remove one of Enfield's key assets in coping with them.

I am passionately demanding that the Council protects its Green Belt. I would suggest they invite the community to propose alternative solutions to the current housing shortage. Building on the green belt is too drastic a solution that would destroy Enfield Chase. This green natural asset would be lost for all future generations.