

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. I am appalled that so little regard appears to be shown for our protected areas. 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 for so many reasons. I have enjoyed visiting Crews Hill over the past 30 years and would not be able to fulfill my passion for gardening without it as I am not able to travel by myself and so enjoy being taken to somewhere where I can look round so many different places in such close proximity to each other and would

be heartbroken if that was taken away from me. Surely we should be encouraging people to garden and personally know so many people that come from far and wide to Crews Hill, it is 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. It is a destination we should be proud of and cannot understand why this is even being considered as there must be so many other more viable alternatives that would not have such a devastating impact on so many people and the resultant impact on our planet appears not to have been considered which seems scandalous. 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 where needed, 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.

