

Dear Enfield Council

I wanted to share my response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021.

I am writing as an Enfield resident, union member and a lifelong Labour Party voter to respond to this consultation. I campaigned in the last two elections for Labour.

I recently travelled through Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Islington. All of these boroughs have been over built with very few green spaces. This is because in the 18 and 19th centuries building was done with little regard to the importance of green space. No one knew the dangers of climate change. Enfield has an opportunity to keep its green space before it is too late. It has an obligation to London and UK to do so.

My daughters are concerned about climate change as am I and most of the world.

People need somewhere to live and the Borough can use brown space, areas over shops and most importantly build up. Hackney, Tower Hamlet and Islington have built high rises. Most major cities around the world have high rises.

I also urge you to look into the very real danger of flooding downstream if the fields to the east of Salmon Brook are built on. The fields between Salmon Brook and The Ridgeway are regularly saturated with water in autumn, winter and spring. The water table here is very close to the surface. So building over the fields will force sudden increases in the volume of water in Salmon Brook, which has a previous history of flooding downstream.

The fields of Vicarage Farm to the west and east of Salmon Brook are also home to many increasingly rare or even endangered species of wildlife, including voles, barn owls and skylarks. (The current tenant farmer has been systematically poisoning wildlife - we have found poisoned foxes, badgers and owls while using the footpaths).

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.

Vicarage Farm is crossed by the Merryhills Way footpath. I and many others use this on a daily basis 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.

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.

