

5/9/2021

Strategic Planning and Design,
Enfield Council,
Freepost, NW5036
EN1 3BR

Dear sir,

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

I am writing in response 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 SA62 page 372

Policy SA62 page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279 – all of which propose the de-designation of Green Belt status for housing and other purposes.

The above sites are part of the historic Enfield Chase which played an important role in the development of Enfield and is still considered part of our heritage. The remaining parts of the Chase are unique in the southeast and a rare and valuable landscape asset. The disappearance of these sites would cause permanent loss not only to the Green Belt but also to the character of our borough.

Vicarage Farm is crossed by the Merryhills Way footpath, which was registered as a public right of way when a local member of the Enfield Society ran a campaign to determine sufficient common use to establish this some years ago. The farmland could be put into more productive use growing local food for local people, doing away with the need for long-distance transporting of essential supplies and safeguarding the environment from harmful pollution.

Crews Hill is equally important to the borough and should be preserved. Its garden centres, which could be the last of the original market-garden area dating back to World War Two or before, are too important to be destroyed. They and other businesses provide vital employment and resources for people from Enfield and beyond. Rather than losing Crews Hill for housing, its horticultural purpose should be strengthened and enhanced so that it can make a more substantial contribution to the production of food and horticulture.

Developers have a natural preference for green field sites over brown field sites, since it is far easier to go straight in and build rather than expend time, energy and resources clearing and adapting the site for construction. Surely it would be far better to use all available brown field sites, accomplishing the proposed number of dwellings in the designated twenty-year term and then cast around for further similar sites which may have come into re-usable access, such as empty office blocks and unused retail premises which online shopping is even now generating.

One final plea to what would be a truly responsible council – whether developing brown or green field sites, special attention will need to be paid to the accompanying infrastructure, ensuring that facilities like schools, hospitals, clinics, GP surgeries are included in the overall planning, as most of these amenities at present are already over-subscribed in many areas of Enfield.

The Green Belt was put in place to prevent continuous urban sprawl. This is more relevant now than it was when it was initially implemented. If we nibble away at it, the Green Belt will have failed in its purpose.

My wife and I moved to the area in 2013 and love the green and pleasant environment and would like to keep it this way.

Yours faithfully,