

Strategic Planning and Design,
ENFIELD COUNCIL, FREEPOST, NW5036,
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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; and Policy SA62 page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279 – all of which propose the dedesignation 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. The physical and mental health attributes of the footpath, so relevant in the last year with Covid restrictions, 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. The garden centres and other businesses provide employment and a resource for people from Enfield. The fact that it has a limited train service does not provide the infra structure for the number of houses suggested in the plan. The ensuing road traffic would certainly overwhelm the road capacity at a time when green policies promote a reduction in car use.

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 actual housing targets and that the Green Belt is a precious resource that should be protected. 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 when it was a lifeline for many. 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.

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. The skyscrapers proposed for the centre of Enfield would forever change the character of Enfield Town and not for the better.

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

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