

## Enfield Council – Draft Local Plan

I am writing to object to the council's local plan for development on Enfield's prestigious Green Belt. Enfield's Green Belt and the rich historical back ground that comes with the area is what defines the borough as a whole and what makes it a popular attraction for visitors and residence alike. The proposed development on the areas in the local plan will decimate the boroughs charm and idyllic aesthetic. I understand that the borough is in need of more housing but the draft local plan, that targets the Green Belt, will destroy the area, which is an appalling and, quite frankly, immoral solution. The fact that the draft local plans has even considered the de-designation of the Green Belt for development is scandalous.

I 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 SA62 page 372; 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.

I am a Company Director at Thompsons of Crews Hill Ltd, my family have been running the site here since 1948, with myself and my sister being the fourth generation of the Thompson family involved in the business, this, coupled with the fact I have been an Enfield/Crews Hill resident all my life, is why I strongly object to the development in the Policies mention above, especially Crews Hill (policy SP PL9, pages 77-80 and concept plan Figure 3.10). Development in the Crews Hill area will have an extremely detrimental effect on my family business and many other businesses in the vicinity. The area of Crews Hill alone invites huge numbers of gardening enthusiast and Landscapers annually, the footfall of which would be hard to measure but is no doubt gargantuan. This footfall brings large amounts of trade and revenue to the Enfield area, which in turn creates employment for thousands of people. If this development is permitted it will have catastrophic effect on these businesses (many of which, like us, are family run and have been here for decades) causing most, if not, all of them to be lost, along with the areas charm and historical identity. Such a tragedy will be the sole responsibility of Enfield council. Many businesses, like ours, will find it extremely hard to re-locate due to land costs and restrictions which will cause many of them to cease trading. This will not only cause employees to be out of work, but will have an adversely negative impact on the economic status of Enfield as a borough.

I have noted that some of the proposed plans in the draft document are unreasonable and cannot fathom the suggestions and how many issues have seemingly gone unnoticed. The section under the heading; *Character Responsive to Context Pg. 77*, describes 'winter gardens and glass house space for every home, creating a unique lifestyle related to the identity of the place'. I can see two glaringly obvious contradictions with this statement; firstly, Enfield Council states it is in need of more affordable housing, I fail to see how any house with a garden large enough to encompass a green house is going to be affordable, especially to the younger generations of first time buyers. Secondly, if the area, that is home to large amounts of garden centres, is to have houses befitting to the identity of the place, where do you propose these new home owners are going to purchase the



materials needed for their greenhouses once all the garden centres have been forced to shut down because of the development.

Over the last 18 months everybody in the country has been battling with the Global pandemic, this has had a detrimental impact on many people's mental health and well-being. It has been a negative outcome that many may not have foreseen, with a lot of news and media coverage; with advice being given about how to combat the onset of depression etc. one such way is the art of gardening. I alone have seen the positive impact that gardening has had on a wealth of people, by developing on the garden centres in Crews Hill you are denying many people a release from the stresses and strains of everyday life, Global pandemic or not, it is a therapeutic pastime enjoyed by everyone. Another important activity that positively influences people's mental health and wellbeing is the ability to enjoy outdoor pursuits, such as walking, exercising and sports etc. I understand that not everyone is lucky enough to directly live in areas such as Enfield, with its rich Green Belt but by releasing the Green Belt you are taking that away from all of the residence and countless thousands of other people who visit the area for sole reason of its prolific beauty. This will also be another factor that negatively affects the economic status of the borough along with the community's wellbeing.

I strongly object to this draft local plan, not only for the afore mentioned points, but it does not indicate how the current infrastructure will be improved to accommodate the increased community, the cost of which would be astronomical. There is one last point I would like to make as a business owner in the Crews Hill area. The businesses in Crews Hill generate a vast amount of rateable revenue, if the area is to be developed where will this revenue come from, as I stated in a previous paragraph many of the businesses will be unable to relocate and will cease trading.

Enfield's Green Belt is an area that should be cherished and nurtured. Not destroyed. This decision has not been left to Enfield's people instead we are relying on the councillors to make the right judgement and protect this area of cadescent beauty and rich history. I sincerely hope that they make the right decision so as to allow future generations to come the right to admire and relish its natural allure.