
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 express my views on these proposals. I particularly object to the following Policies - all of which propose the re-designation of Green Belt for housing and other purposes.

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- 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).

Most of these sites are part of the historic Enfield Chase, which has played an important role in the development of Enfield. The remaining parts of the Chase are unique to both London and to South East England and, as such, are a (increasingly) rare and valuable 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 of Enfield. They represent an important element of my choosing Enfield as a place to live many years ago.

Vicarage Farm is crossed by the Merryhills Way footpath, which is 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 the proposed development. These attributes have been much needed in the past year or so as a result of the pandemic and may well be needed again for similar reasons. 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. The garden centres and other businesses provide both employment and are a resource for people from Enfield and beyond. Instead of losing Crews Hill to housing, its horticultural activities should be encouraged and enhanced so that it can once again be a local 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. There are many alternatives available to meet housing targets and the Green Belt is such a precious resource that it 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.

The Council has a duty of care for the Green Belt, in accordance with the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework, and any intentions to release parts of it

should be taken out of the local plan.