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Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important consultation.

I appreciate the need for housing development and support the ambition to meet Enfield's housing needs, However, I strongly object to the proposal to release Green Belt for housing or other purposes. In my view here are alternatives available to meet housing targets. The Green Belt is a precious resource that should be protected and preserved for future generations. Green spaces are the lungs of the capital. Consuming them with housing and other developments will deprive future generations and could be injurious to their mental and physical health.

I am further concerned that Crews Hill has been singled out for release from the Green Belt. The garden centres and other businesses there 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. Enfield has a long and distinguished history with horticulture. Will this also be sacrificed in the name of progress?

Enfield Road is one of two key routes into Enfield Town. On occasions it is already heavily used - witness the delays to all, including essential services when it is affected by roadworks. Flanking the road with thousands of new homes will not only add to the concentration of traffic but will also impose a heavy burden on service supplies such as water, sewage, gas and electricity.

There are many brownfield sites throughout the Borough. The report, Space to Build, Enfield by CPRE-London, Enfield RoadWatch and The Enfield Society provides clear evidence of this. The report shows potential sites for at least 37,000 homes, mostly in areas that need regeneration. These areas would also benefit from public transport and other infrastructure upgrades.

The Green Belt 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 NPPF, and any intentions to release parts of it should be taken out of the local plan.

The comments expressed above are my own views.