

News Release

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For Immediate Release

Enfield Road Watch and Highlands Ward Conservatives see off any proposed development on the Green Belt...for now

- The decision not to proceed with an Enfield Road school application leaves the Labour run Council serious questions to answer about its School Places strategy –

Following an unprecedented display of local opposition, organised by the Enfield Road Watch and fully supported by the three Highlands Ward Conservative Councillors, it is understood that Fairview New Homes Ltd will NOT be progressing with a planning application for housing and a secondary school on Green Belt land at Enfield Road.

Officers from the Planning Department at Enfield Council have informed Conservative Councillors that no formal pre-application advice has ever been given to Fairview because they have not progressed the planning application.

The reason Councillors were given?

The Greater London Authority informed the developments promoter, over the course of two meetings, that there are no special circumstances that could be used to justify the plan for 200 or so homes on the Green Belt.

It is understood that the land owner and applicant will now be using the new Local Plan review process to try and get the green belt allocation reviewed so future development can occur on the site.

The Highlands Ward Conservative Councillors are now going to urge local residents to engage with the Local Plan review, which ends on February 12th, and say why the Enfield Road site should remain as Green Belt land. The Conservative Party in Enfield will also formally be making this point as part of their submission to the Local Plan review.

Cllr Glynis Vince, Highlands Ward Conservative Councillor, said:

“I am delighted that the GLA has listened to the views of local residents and the Enfield Road Watch and seen off this attempt to build houses and a school on the site. It was speculative and the houses are clearly not needed given the fact Enfield is on target to meet its housing delivery targets.

“The battle may have been won but it is clear we still have a fight on our hands. We will now be urging all local residents to engage with the Local Plan review process and make sure the Council does not cave in to the pressure and reallocate this land as suitable for development.”

The decision not to progress with the application puts further pressure on Enfield Council to act over the looming shortage of Secondary School places for children in Central Enfield.

The Cabinet Paper of October 21st 2015 makes it clear that the Labour run Council was seeking a residential development to pay for the new Secondary School, even going so far as to identify the Enfield Road application.

Chase Ward Conservative Cllr Nick Dines who has been working closely with parents in central Enfield concerned about Secondary School place provision, said:

“The Council has lost at least a year in planning for much needed secondary school places by putting its faith in this planning application delivering them a school.

“How a development that would have broken Enfield’s Local Plan, contravened the London Plan and smashed national planning policy could be cited as ‘a good example’ is beyond me.

“The Council urgently needs to inform residents in central Enfield who were expecting this school to open in 2019 what it is proposing now its Plan A appears to have been taken away from them.”

ENDS