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NEWS

Fighting for the green belt: Residents at the site on the corner of Enfield Road and Cotswold Way



# Developers under fire for rejecting ecological survey

By Adrian Colley

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AN MP says that pleas for an ecological study on a controversial green belt site have been snubbed.

Joan Ryan, the MP for Enfield North, had backed demands for campaigners to be allowed to carry out a biodiversity survey on fields that developers want to build on.

But Fairview New Homes, who manage the site off Enfield Road and Cotswold Way, in Oakwood, have turned down her request that Enfield Road Watch should be allowed to conduct the study.

Such surveys help give local authorities a bigger picture of the issues before them when they decide whether planning applications should be backed or thrown out.

Fairview manage the site on behalf of owners the Church of England's Diocese of London.

Earlier this year, the company ditched plans for 300 homes, a college and a school on the site.

Ms Ryan said: "Fairview say they want to be open and transparent and they have the opportu-

nity to do both here and they are not taking it. We all have a vested interest in protecting green belt open space. There has to be a very good and special case if green belt land is to be built on.

"The onus is on Fairview to make that case and they are not making that case and are being obstructive towards residents who are trying to make a specialist case for not building on the green belt."

Enfield Road Watch says the fields are rich with various plants and an abundance of wildlife, which has included red kites and bats.

Ms Ryan added: "The residents are going to this trouble because they care about the environment."

Ian D'Souza, chairman of Enfield Road Watch, criticised Fairview, saying: "Where is their community spirit? And what are they trying to hide?"

He said that a letter received from Fairview indicated several required surveys had already been carried out.

The Advertiser contacted Fairview for a comment on Tuesday – but it did not respond by the time we went to press.

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