

Enfield RoadWatch comments on Enfield's Climate Action Plan

We would particularly like to address the section on Natural Landscape, which should be expanded:

1. There is no mention of Green Belt or Metropolitan Open Land, which have been replaced with the generic term 'green infrastructure'. We feel it is important to be specific about the borough's open spaces and the protection they have as Green Belt and MOL. They are not a generic [possibly interchangeable] asset but much-valued and important to the borough's residents and their health and well-being. There is a requirement under the NPPF para 141 to enhance the beneficial use of Green Belt.ⁱ In addition, there should be recognition that Enfield's Green Belt encourages urban regeneration, promoting compact, efficient, low-carbon development.
2. There is no mention of local agricultural land. There should be a policy to grow as much food locally as possible, on both private and Council-owned farms, to reduce food miles and the pollution caused by delivery. Local agricultural practices should be informed by the most current research into soil conservation, habitat enhancement and other practices that have the environment and ecology at the forefront. A performance baseline and KPI can be established for this.
3. There is no mention of local horticulture. Enfield had a once-vibrant local growing sector, which should be encouraged again, for the same reasons as above. A performance baseline and KPI can be established for this.
4. Private landowners should be strongly encouraged to use their land productively, either for food production, trees or habitat. A performance baseline and KPI can be established for this.
5. Habitat surveys should be conducted for those areas that don't currently have them, to set a baseline for maintenance and improvement. For instance, the habitat survey of Trent Country Park highlighted additional areas of ancient woodland and extensive areas of acid grasslands, which are rare in London. This information is essential to achieve the stated goal of 'enhancing the borough's biodiversity'.

Enfield RoadWatch is in favour of the proposed Enfield Chase Restoration and urban tree planting schemes and applauds the wetland creation projects but believes more should be included in the Climate Action Plan to reflect our above comments.

ⁱ **141.** *Once Green Belts have been defined, local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance their beneficial use, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land.*