



## Enfield RoadWatch October 2020 Newsletter

Dear Supporters,

It's been a while since our last newsletter and we hope you are keeping safe and well and adjusting to life, whilst we play our part in tackling the virus. I suspect everyone will agree just how important having access to green and open spaces has been for so many of us this year and will be for future generations. Enfield RoadWatch continues to work hard to protect the Green Belt and green open spaces and is working collaboratively with new organisations and groups to achieve this. This edition of our newsletter has a new format which we hope you like and is packed with information relating to important government changes on the planning process as well as news of interest within the borough.



### Planning Reform Consultation

Action is needed! Many environmental, heritage, planning and other organisations have expressed concern about the Government's proposed overhaul of the planning process. Click the button to access the paper, called *Planning for the Future*.

[Planning for the Future](#)

There are two main areas of concern:

- While the Green Belt will be nominally protected in the 'Protected' category, there will still be enormous pressure on Local Authorities to release Green Belt to meet housing targets. This would happen during the Local Plan revision process, as it does now.
- The proposals front-load all the decision-making and remove several layers of democratic input to the planning process. Planning proposals for land that is put into the 'Development' or 'Growth' categories will go through an accelerated process with little or no public input.

A large number of organisations expressed their shared concerns in a letter to *The Telegraph* on September 3. Crispin Truman from Campaign to Protect Rural England [CPRE] also wrote to *The Times* on August 24, calling the planning reforms an attack on local democracy and saying that they will achieve the exact opposite of levelling up and building back better.

Enfield RoadWatch has made a submission the Government planning consultation in line with those of like-minded organisations, such as CPRE and Civic Voice.

## How can you help?

- Respond to the Consultation **by October 29** by writing to [planningforthefuture@communities.gov.uk](mailto:planningforthefuture@communities.gov.uk). You can copy and paste or adapt our response which you can read [here](#).
- CPRE has started a [petition](#) against the planning reforms. Please sign it and share it.
- Civic Voice is also being very proactive on this issue. Visit their [website](#) to learn more about the proposed planning reforms or to join in one of their activities. Civic Voice.
- Write to your MPs expressing your concerns and asking them to work against the proposed changes. [Find your MP](#).

**This is an important issue that we are monitoring closely.**

## Local Plan Update



The Covid crisis and the proposed planning reforms have slowed down the process considerably. We are told that the Draft Local Plan consultation will now not happen until early 2021. However, work is continuing behind the scenes. A new [Integrated Impact Assessment](#) on the Local Plan website includes guidance on environmental policies. There remains the usual conflict between the many benefits of the Green Belt and other green infrastructure and the need for development sites. A long read if you have time to spare .....

## A New Partnership



Enfield RoadWatch is now working with [EnCaf](#), [Enfield Climate Action Forum](#), a coalition of more than 70 local groups who are concerned about climate change and the environment.

Our first joint project is to create a report on the future of agriculture in the borough. It will fill an apparent gap in LBE's strategic planning by pulling together expert advice on farming and food security, trees, climate change, biodiversity and more. Please let us know if you have expertise to contribute or would just like to help. You can read our vision statement [here](#).

Enfield has also just posted a [consultation](#) on their Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment [SHLAA] methodology. As dry as it sounds, it is important, and the Green Belt is definitely under threat. The consultation deadline is October 29. Please check our [website](#) for our response and how you can respond too or email us and we'll send it to you.

## Re-Branding

Is it time for a new name that better reflects our current mission? The Enfield Road fields are still an important part of our focus - but the name causes some confusion. Our campaign now covers all of the borough's green spaces and we collaborate on green space issues with several organisations in London and beyond. If you have any new name suggestions, please send them along.

## News Round Up

### Enfield Chase Restoration

The Council is moving forwards with an ambitious woodland creation scheme as part of its climate action plan. The project will see up to 170 hectares of new woodland with over 100,000 trees planted over the next few years. At this stage they are waiting for approval of their plans from the Forestry Commission. Exact locations for tree planting this winter are being finalised and a call for volunteers will go out once the first phase has been finalised. To learn more about the project click below.

### Enfield Chase Restoration

### Enfield Town regeneration

A large-scale regeneration of the Town's shopping precincts is currently in the early stages of consultation. Palace Square would replace Palace Gardens and Palace Exchange with a mix of retail, residential and leisure facilities. While much of it sounds positive, the developers insist it is financially viable only with a 26-storey residential block at its heart. The tower would be very visible and out of scale with the rest of our historic market town but would provide some much-needed homes and increase footfall in the Town. You can weigh in by visiting their [website](#) where you can also register for an October 26 webinar.

### Colosseum Retail Park

As you may have seen, LBE's Planning Committee has approved the development of the current B&Q site at the corner of the A10 and Southbury Road. It has been reported that Enfield RoadWatch supports the development as preferable to building on the Green Belt. While this is true, the reports do not state that we and The Enfield Society raised concerns about the number of the development's proposals, including the height of the towers.

Please stay in touch via our social media [buttons below] and keep up to date via our website. [www.enfieldroadwatch.co.uk](http://www.enfieldroadwatch.co.uk). If you haven't already signed, please join the thousands of people who have signed our [Change.org](#) petition. Go to: [Change.org](#) [then search for Protect Enfield]

**Thanks for your continued support.**

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