



Labour's decision to prioritise Crews Hill & Chase Park new town is being taken without evidence, scrutiny or transparency.

The government **has just announced the locations of seven new towns named for consideration** as “*part of the most ambitious housebuilding programme in more than half a century*”. One of which is Crews Hill & Chase Park (CH&CP) in Enfield.

In an unprecedented, and inexplicable, move, Enfield's Labour-led council has handed over London's last remaining semi-rural community at Crews Hill, and its most beautiful, ancient countryside across Enfield's Ridgeway, to the government for a 21,000-home new town stretching from the M25 to Oakwood station. 884 acres. Three times the city of London.

Action for Enfield's Future considers that residents have a right to know much more than they are being told before they vote on May 7th to elect Enfield's next council.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

We support [The National Day of Action](#) for nature parks and green spaces on April 18th and the Celebrate Crews Hill and Enfield's Countryside Event organised by [Enfield RoadWatch](#). They will be outside Thompson's Garden Centre, Cattlegate Rd, Enfield 10am – 4pm.

We hope for thousands of visitors on foot, cycle, by train or bus to join us. Please avoid car use, if possible, the roads get very congested.

Carol Fisk of Enfield RoadWatch, the organiser of the day, said “*the best way to refute the Council Leader's, now discredited, mischaracterisation of Crews Hill as 'consisting of garages, car parks and golf clubs'¹, is to come and see for yourself. Enjoy and explore Crews Hill, appreciate historic aspects of Enfield's character and what will be lost. Say hello, learn about countryside walks and be introduced to a Crews Hill you may not have known was there...*”

CONSULTATION

The Government consultation will last from 23 March to 19 May 2026.

Just 58 days to consult communities about “the most ambitious housebuilding programme in more than half a century.” Yet an EIR² has revealed developers have been in consultation with Enfield Council and GLA officers for the best part of a year.

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1486459859225331>

² Environmental Information Regulations Request.



TRANSPARENCY

Enfield Council and the Government need to come clean about the risk of this approach. It will distract resources from many other more viable approaches e.g. completing Meridian Water and other brownfield sites that are national, London and local priorities, and impede progress in providing urgently needed homes.

Shrouded in secrecy, no credible evidence has been provided to justify the inclusion of CH&CP as a plausible site for a new town. Let alone one that would provide “*affordable, 3-4 bedroom family homes with drives for your cars and gardens*” (Leader of Enfield Council³)

On the contrary, the New Towns Taskforce extols the virtues of “*ambitious density*” because it “*allows more homes to be delivered within a compact footprint*” enabling “*more people to live closer to employment, services, and public transport, **reducing reliance on private vehicles***”.

The New Towns Draft Programme describes the proposal as “*an expanded development of up to 21,000 new homes bringing together Crews Hill & Chase Park in Enfield; delivering landscape-led development and helping address London’s acute housing need.*”

Enfield residents can be forgiven for asking exactly what a “landscape-led development” means.

It sounds suspiciously like an extended urban sprawl at Local Plan sites Chase Park (Vicarage Farm) and Crews Hill separated by what’s left of [Enfield Chase Landscape Restoration](#).

A new town without a town centre, with public transport hubs on its extreme perimeters.

HOW MUCH DO WE KNOW?

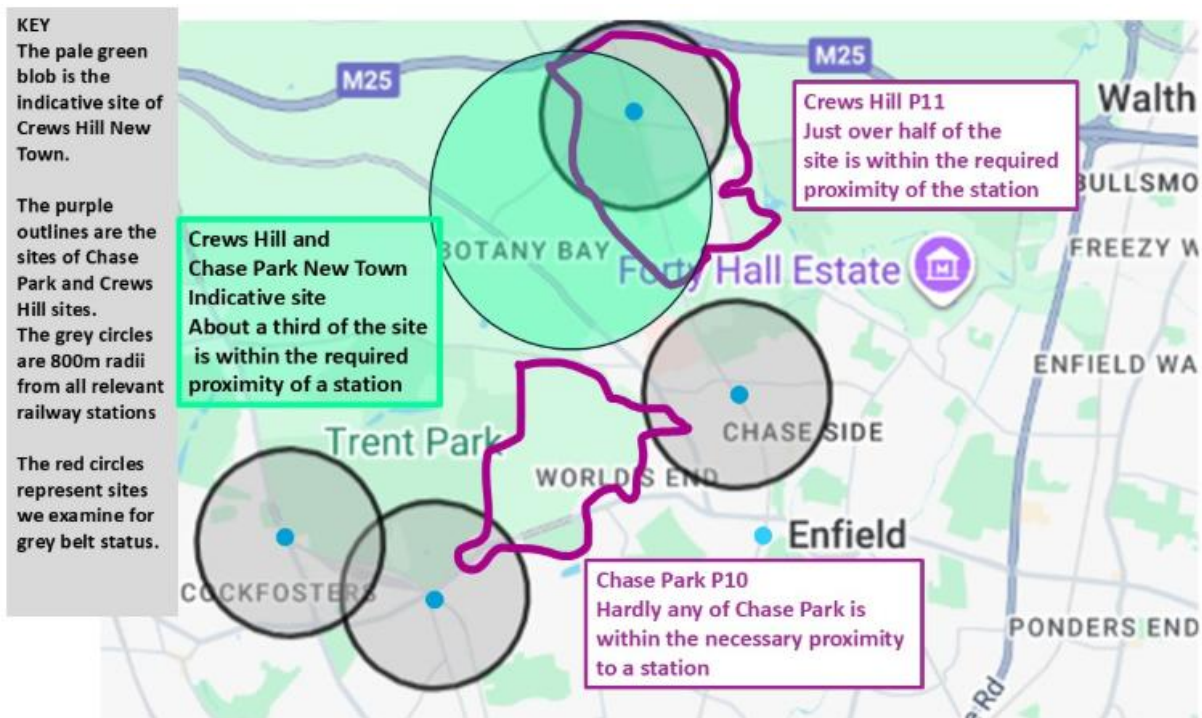
The New Towns Taskforce report, with just 800 words about CH&CP new town, is thin on evidence and often inaccurate. It describes the site as “*poor quality green belt land*” with “*currently low value land*” (i.e. it belongs to the Council which will make £800,000+ for the sale), “*comprising commercial nurseries, garden centres, a golf course*”.

No mention of the mixture of arable farmland, green space, woodland and waterways and “high functioning green belt” tabled by Enfield Council as evidence in the Local Plan.

The report also claims that “*The site is already well connected*” and that “*the existing connectivity means development could proceed quickly, with improvements made in parallel*”

This map reveals otherwise. Very little of the proposed site is within 800m of a station required for connectivity, walking and cycling networks, ensuring that a topographically hilly site will be car dependent, with congestion and pollution baked in.

³https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=923671180106548&external_log_id=e0dca400-a78b-4fb4-8716-d84b6630df77&q=ergin%20erbil%20crews%20hill



The Evidence

The proposal increasingly feels like a *fait accompli*.

Enfield's Labour Party has already set out its manifesto, "We will" they say, put "infrastructure first" at the new town with a "first dibs" policy for first-time buyers currently living in Enfield who are looking to buy affordable homes in the new development.

And yet the Mayor of [London's Green Belt Review](#) has yet to be published.

The London Assembly investigation into the [New Towns for London](#) has not yet published the results of its call for evidence.

And, last September the government initiated a [Strategic Environment Assessment](#) (SEA) to help it to "understand the environmental implications of new towns development" and "support final decisions on precisely which locations we take forward".

And more importantly they claim that "No final decisions on locations will be made until that SEA concludes" and that "preferred locations could change as a result of the process".

The SEA was published yesterday, the day after the revised list, 667 pages for consultation.

This provides limited reassurance to communities across England, including Enfield, given the inaccurate information and, locally, misleading political claims.



Enfield residents, especially those seeking affordable homes now, deserve better. Not because the principal of providing homes for those who desperately need them is wrong, but because **this** proposal is ill conceived, lacks evidence and fails to take account of the many more viable options for providing homes quickly.

It won't help.

Join us Saturday 18th April 10am – 4pm Celebrate Crews Hill and Enfield's countryside, come by foot, cycle, train (Crews Hill station) or 456 bus if you can.

Contact:

Vicki Pite or Carol Fisk
07929726510 / 07506071323
actionforenfieldsfuture@gmail.com
enfieldroadwatch@gmail.com

About:

Action for Enfield's Future

Action for Enfield's Future (AfEF) is a grassroots non-political community group bringing together local residents, including members of [EnCaf](#) and [Enfield RoadWatch](#).

We work to make the borough we love a fairer and better place to live, by pushing for transparent, evidence-based decisions for residents.

Much more information at Enfield RoadWatch [Welcome - Enfield RoadWatch Action Group](#) and Action for Enfield's Future [Action for Enfield's Future – Why Crews Hill & Chase Park New Town will not solve London's housing crisis](#) websites

[End]