From:
To: Forward Planning

Subject: Concerns Regarding the Edgware Policy in Barnet Local Plan Main Modifications

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Representation from: Jonathan Dean

Address:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Edgware Policy in the proposed Main Modifications to the Barnet Local Plan.

My family and I have been living in Edgware since 2011 and we have always enjoyed the quality of life here - in contrast to the busy centre of London (where I work for UCL). What we appreciate is the human scale of the buildings in Station Road with their harmonious 1920s architecture, the range of shops and cafes (from small independent to high street chains), the relatively unpopulated nature of the street, and the proximity to wonderful local parks. All of this would be ruined by massive vertical building plans, such as those put forward by Ballymore: Edgware would completely lose its human scale as enormous Wembley-like tower blocks would loom over everything else, including parks such as Chandos Recreation Ground (currently undergoing improvements); secondly, there would be a population explosion, with inadequately planned infrastructure to cope with this; and finally, during the 10-year building programme, it is likely that many businesses would have to close, due to the demolition of the Broadwalk Shopping Centre, and the likely impact of this on the rest of the high street.

As a resident of Edgware, I understand the plan has been under development since 2020. However, I only recently became aware of its existence and its potential impact on our community.

Unfortunately, I haven't received any written communication from Barnet Council about the Local Plan, despite its significance for Edgware's future. Given the potential for significant change to Edgware's character and residents' quality of life, I believe wider notification would have been helpful.

I found the volume and complexity of the Local Plan and the related documents overwhelming. The 42-day consultation period seems insufficient for anybody to comprehend the plan's details – especially for anyone with work or caring commitments.

However, I am deeply concerned about the impact of the Local Plan on Edgware and its residents, both present and future.

In light of these concerns, I would like to express my support for any representations made by Save Our Edgware and the Edgware Community Association. Please consider their submissions as reflecting my own concerns.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Dean