

Mrs Sue Davies comments

Page: [Policy GG3 Creating a healthy city](#)

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There are so many issues to address under this heading. You want to build more houses - often near transport hubs - and this is leading to flats along the North Circular for example (I live in Southgate Enfield) - immense blocks with very little open space in a heavily polluted environment. It means more living spaces, more congestion, more pollution, more cars and no schools for the children living here in the future. Open spaces need to be planned in to these developments so that they are linked up - corridors of green can be so useful to everyone - going to school, walking the dog, cycling safely, bringing a bit of countryside into the city etc. It needs to be planned for as it was in the new towns of the 20th century. All I see is more and more building in small spaces and without any gardens and people coming out onto polluted roads..

As for the health of those living there the pollution levels are very bad at these transport nodes where flats are being built. Plans for pollution reduction need to be brought forward and the emissions zone extended to the M25 as soon as possible. All current green spaces need to be protected and maintained or improved with local involvement as this always leads to protection and 'ownership' of such places.

Our current busy roads need tree planting programmes and the planting of thick hedges to protect pedestrians from the worst pollution as they walk along these roads to access shops, bus stops and schools.

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The plan must stick to the maxim of Affordable housing which means access for those in need of council house rent levels and not just for young people wanting to buy.

The previously developed land will include some NHS property as things stand at the moment. This is selling off the NHS silver for short term gain. The NHS should keep ownership of this land and property and not hand it over to private companies. Even if the property is to be redeveloped the land should remain in NHS hands for the future. The danger is that it will be sold at knock down prices owing to the underfunding of the NHS - once it has gone it has gone and more distant future health needs are not being considered. All this property belongs to the nation as part of our inheritance of the NHS. The tragedy is that it is being sold off to private enterprise both for housing and for health so that we are all going to suffer in the long run. Our inheritance should be used for the benefit of the nation and not private companies. If the NHS chooses to develop housing if it is near a hospital that housing should be for nurses and other employees. It could be that the site could have other uses which would keep it in public services ownership. Each site should be assessed thoroughly and not just sold off for short term gain.

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I do not understand why the government is not investing in some outside London growth beyond the Green Belt once more. It has worked before with the new towns and town expansions and it can do so again. It might make it more possible to protect our open spaces and stop the growth of very congested communities in the outer suburbs where every space gets houses and none become small open spaces to be nourished and protected - its a very sad situation and I am not sure that all the extra growth of London can happen within its borders anyway.

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National policy changes are needed on the number of vacant houses that are to be found throughout the capital. Its a national scandal that so many in central London are empty and owned overseas. How much do we need these parasitic investors? This is private enterprise gone mad. If they do own them they should be obliged to rent them out or we should be charging them exhorbitant rates to keep them empty. A solution must be found.

We need low rent housing in the centre of London to keep all the services going there:' bussing' workers in daily is not the answer - it creates an even greater underclass - how can there be any sense of community without creating them as mixed employment areas as they once were? You have a lot of work to do here.

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