

Ms Paula Ingram comments

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I am pleased to see that a section of the plan has been given over to protecting the green areas of London, and that it is quite detailed and includes Metropolitan open land private green spaces as well.

I am aware that there is huge pressure, in particular from developers wanting to build on green belt land purely for profit (not for any real benefit to the population as this tends to be high end housing). I urge the Mayor to stand firm on this point. Destroying the Green belt is neither desirable nor necessary to address the housing problem in London and attempts to morally and emotionally blackmail the population into believing otherwise must be firmly resisted.

Regarding private green space, there is a rash of development proposals wanting to use people's back gardens and amenity space to build inappropriately. I feel the rules around this, whilst in the plan, need to be more robust with a clear principle against this kind of development, which again is rarely offering 'affordable' housing but designed purely for profit.

I am concerned that the rules around 'swaps' where one piece of green land is freed up in exchange for building on another, are too weak. The requirements for the new piece of land only require one of a number of criteria to be met, which will inevitably open the door for reduced quality and amenity value in an arrangement like this.

In these times when the city is growing and pollution and congestion are major challenges, the need to preserve and develop green space, trees and the wildlife that accompany them has never been greater. I urge the Mayor in the strongest terms to stand by his proposals, make them as robust as possible, and to resist any attempts to water them down.