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Concerns Regarding the Edgware Policy in Barnet Local Plan Main Modifications

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Representation from: Stephanie Cook

Address:

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

I use Edgware town centre for shopping. A covered shopping centre means that it is suitable for all weathers – to keep out of the sun in the summer and keep warm in the winter. It is a meeting place for friends and family. It draws people in.

I use public transport for work and there is no proposal to improve the bus or tube capacity. How are people meant to use public transport when it is likely to be inaccessible due to the number of people wanting to use it? It could become dangerous due to the volume of people.

I also use public transport to visit friends and family as due to a medical condition I am unable to drive long distances. I have chronic migraines, which is classed as disability under the Equality Act 2010.

The loss of public parking and closure of the Broadwalk during construction will have a severe detrimental effect on Edgware. It will damage the trade of the remaining local business. If people cannot park and/or access public transport, they will not come to Edgware. Once they have stopped coming to Edgware, they will not come back as they will have found somewhere else to meet their needs.

From a safety perspective, people feel safer in their cars when going out for an evening, if they do not have easy access to public transport. They will not come to somewhere they cannot park.

Edgware is the only area locally that has branches of all of the major banks and building societies. It allows people to deal with their finances as they want, especially those not able to or do not want to use internet banking.

The plans will damage Edgware and it will not recover.

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.

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.

Please can you arrange for this letter to be considered as part of the Equality Impact Assessment due to my chronic condition.

Yours sincerely

Stephanie Cook