

I am objecting to the proposed development of 1100 houses on the Northern part of Ellenbrook fields because:

- The area is very heavily used by local residents walking, running etc, probably by several hundred a day. This has been particularly important during the Covid-19 pandemic for peoples mental and physical health. Therefore, its loss will detrimental to the amenities available in the neighbourhood.
- Prior to the pandemic there was a very popular Park run around Ellenbrook fields which was often attended by over 300 people.
- A Country park for Ellenbrook fields was proposed in 2000 – Section 106 but has not yet been delivered.
- Valuable natural habitat for many species of animals, birds and plants will be lost, adding to the loss of biodiversity in the area and nationally.
- The Ellenbrook water course gets very close to capacity after periods of heavy rain (which will become more common with climate change). Housing on Ellenbrook fields will greatly diminish the capacity for the rain fall to be absorbed in the soil. This will greatly increase the runoff into the Ellenbrook leading to a high chance of flooding in the area.
- Further erosion of the green belt between Hatfield and St Albans.
- The housing targets for the area should be revised in light of BREXIT and the Covid-19 pandemic. Both factors will reduce the need for extra housing compared with what was predicted several years ago.
- All the extra housing proposed for this area will add to the volume of traffic on local roads which get very busy at peak times.
- Brown field sites should be used in preference to green field sites. As an example, there is a large area in the centre of Hatfield business park adjacent to How Dell School which has been vacant since the part was opened 17 years ago. This would be a preferable location for housing, instead of using up the valuable green belt.