Croydon Conservatives

Natasha Irons MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Cllr Jeet Bains
Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services

23 September 2026

Dear Natasha,

Croydon East's Green Belt: will you defend your constituents or Sadiq Khan?

You were elected to represent the people of Croydon East.

You now have an opportunity to demonstrate whether that means standing up for them when it matters – including when the threat comes from your own party's Mayor of London.

Sadiq Khan's Draft London Plan gives Croydon a housing target of 21,544 homes, including 5,600 homes on greenfield land. The Plan also designates Croydon–New Addington as a Green Belt Residential-led Mixed Use Broad Location for Growth.

This directly matters to your constituents.

The Mayor of London's identified Croydon–New Addington growth location is associated with a series of transport anchors including Lebanon Road, Sandilands, Addiscombe, Coombe Lane, Gravel Hill, Addington Village, Fieldway, King Henry's Drive and New Addington.

These are not names on a map to be discussed in some distant planning seminar.
They are communities.
They are neighbourhoods.
They are people's homes and the green spaces around them.

And you were elected to represent many of those people.

The Draft London Plan simultaneously identifies 15,944 homes of brownfield capacity in Croydon.
So the fundamental question for you is this:

Why should Croydon's Green Belt be put into the development equation when thousands of homes can be accommodated on previously developed land?

The answer cannot simply be that London needs more homes.
Of course London needs more homes.

The issue is where they should be built.

Croydon Conservatives believe the answer should be brownfield first: unlock stalled schemes, get existing permissions built, regenerate Croydon town centre and make better use of land that has already been developed.

We should not allow Mayor of London Sadiq Khan to treat Croydon's Green Belt as the easiest answer to London's housing pressures.

There is an especially uncomfortable question for you.

Before becoming an MP, you served as Merton Council's Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green Spaces and Climate Change.

So where are you now?

- Where is your public opposition to the Mayor of London's Green Belt proposals?
- Have you written to Sadiq Khan?
- Have you demanded that the Croydon–New Addington Green Belt growth allocation be removed?
- Have you met residents in the affected communities?
- Have you asked Croydon Council what impact the proposal could have on your constituents?
- Or are you remaining silent because opposing the proposal would mean confronting your own Labour Mayor of London?

You cannot have it both ways.

You cannot champion the protection of green spaces when it is politically convenient and then disappear when your own Mayor of London proposes development pressure on them.

And you certainly cannot tell Croydon East residents that you are standing up for them while refusing to tell them whether you support the policy that threatens their Green Belt.

So I am asking you five direct questions:

1. **Do you support Sadiq Khan's proposed 5,600-home greenfield component for Croydon where this requires Green Belt release?**
2. **Do you support the designation of Croydon–New Addington as a Green Belt Residential-led Mixed Use Broad Location for Growth?**
3. **Will you publicly call on Sadiq Khan to remove the Green Belt growth element from Croydon's housing strategy?**
4. **Will you support Croydon Council's objection to the Draft London Plan?**
5. **Will you join Mayor of Croydon Jason Perry and Croydon Conservatives in campaigning to protect Croydon's Green Belt?**

These are simple questions, and your constituents deserve simple answers.

If you oppose the proposals, say so. If you support them, say so.

As the MP for Croydon East – and a former Cabinet Member responsible for green spaces – you cannot simply remain silent. Will you stand with your constituents, or will you stand with Sadiq Khan?

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Jeet Bains

Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services
Croydon Conservatives