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Dear Sir/Madam

My family and our neighbours and friends use Firs Farm Wetlands daily for exercise and play. Our 5 year old son and his classmates regularly use the football pitches and there are often sports clubs Utilising the playing fields. Many of the young people from the local schools also train and play there. I strongly object to draft policy DM BG16 in the Draft Enfield Local Plan.

This allocates Firs Farm Wetlands (Site ID SA59) as a site for burial and/or crematorium use. I oppose this policy because:

1. Firs Farm wetlands is a vitally important community resource, essential to the health and well-being of the local people in many ways, it became an ever more important place during lockdown and is loved by everyone in the area.
2. The draft Policy directly contradicts Strategic Policy SP CL4 in the draft Local Plan. This identifies Firs Farm as facilitating and contributing towards developing sport and leisure facilities in Enfield.
3. The proposal will significantly affect the local Site of Interest for Nature Conservation, and reduce the biodiversity and nature conservation interest of Firs Farm wetlands, contrary to several other policies in the draft Local Plan.
4. The proposal will reduce the effectiveness of the flood alleviation provided by Firs Farm wetlands, which Enfield Council has spent more than £1 million to provide.
5. The proposal will adversely affect the environment and local traffic, and this has not been properly considered in the Integrated Impact Assessment of the draft Local Plan.
6. The policy introduces uncertainty into the future use of Firs Farm wetlands that jeopardises funding for projects secured by local community groups (e.g. from Thames Water) that have been endorsed and supported by Enfield Council.

I call on the Council to remove all reference to Firs Farm wetlands from Policy SP CL4.