

---

Hello,

As a local resident, I'm writing to object to Firs Farm Wetlands being in the local draft plan for the proposed new crematorium.

Enfield has 3 proposed locations for a new crematorium, one of which is on the Firs Farm wetland, which is the one that I oppose.

I request the removal of all reference to Firs Farm wetlands from Policy SP CL4 for the below reasons:

1. The Firs Farm Wetlands is established as a community park, with tennis courts, football pitches, paved and woodland walks, wetland ponds. It sits between 2 schools, primary and comprehensive. The placement of the crematorium in Firs Farm affects the local residents who use the parks, and the parents of local residents that send their children to the local schools. They are overwhelmingly Enfield voters and tax payers, who will no doubt view a crematorium between 2 schools, in their local wetland very poorly, as a significant loss to their community.

2. Significant investment and effort has gone into developing Firs Farm park as a community hub. The wetland has been added, tennis courts installed, cycled paths added, paved and woodland paths laid. All this has encouraged local residents of Enfield to exercise in the wetlands. This is undercut by placing a crematorium in the heart of the wetlands. People will be less keen to exercise and make use of the park for community meetings and events, if it is now in the shadow of a crematorium. Psychologically it will not be a pleasant or relaxing sight and will not be encouraging Enfield residents to spend time exercising. Plus those using the park will have very real worries about their health, given the possibility of fumes from the crematorium.

3. The proposal directly contradicts Strategic Policy SP CL4 in the draft Local Plan. That identified Firs Farm as facilitating and contributing towards developing sport and leisure facilities in Enfield. The plan places the crematorium directly on top of existing football pitches, thus depriving children and adults of much needed exercise and community activity. The existing playing fields are convenient to get to for drivers, but even if the football pitches were moved within the park, it would only be making access harder and more laborious for footballers, family and friends, and puts them into contention

with local resident parking (which is now more limited on Firs Lane)

4. Significant traffic calming measures, and a new bus route have effected the traffic down Firs Lane, which would be made worse by a constant procession of hearses and cars of the bereaved (few people would willingly choose to attend funerals by bus, so the bus route is of no benefit to them). Buses and cars will be impeded by funeral processions attempting to navigate traffic calming measures, and funeral processions will be held up by cars and buses navigating the same obstacles.

The Firs Farm wetland habitat can store up to 30,000 cubic metres of flood water, and will reduce the risk of flooding to more than 100 residential properties and parts of the A10. It also helps reduce pollution. This was a £1M project co-funded by the council, but now will be impacted by this proposal. The proposed site placement is covering the West Branch Culvert to the wetlands ponds, and also would prevent natural drainage by reducing the wild and grass area. This carries the increased risk of flooding in the local area.

5. That regardless of location, that a Mercury Abatement system must now legally be integral to the plan, and that the crematorium is no longer able to pollute mercury and trade away responsibly with another crematorium. Local residents in the final chosen area will not have the option to trade away the mercury that builds up in their bodies, and this may cause future scandal, liability, and possible criminal proceedings for permanent disability caused by negligence in permit or execution of the chosen site. Even with an abatement system, placement at the Firs Lane Wetland is a poor choice of location. Between wetland, a primary school, a secondary school, and local housing there is a risk that the small amount of mercury normally not abated, or a failure or degradation of abatement provision over time, will lead to mercury build up and poisoning of pupils at both schools, residents in the local area, as well as the local waterway. I would consider this a strong potential health hazard to the future irreparable harm to 1000s of schoolchildren and locally born children.

6. The CDS Group carried out a study looking solely at Greater London's crematorium emissions. This revealed that, combined, these crematoria released around 9000 tonnes of carbon and 18,000 kilograms of NOx emissions. To put that into perspective, to offset the carbon emissions of Greater London crematoria, around 134,000 acres of new tree seedlings would need to be planted (EPA.GOV Carbon Calculator 2020). Emissions of this scale are not only a danger to our environment but the NOx emissions are also a potential danger to public health - particularly to young children. Electric cremators should be the solution at whatever chosen site is, as they can release around 90% less carbon than a conventional gas cremator with only carbon from the combustion of the body and the coffin entering the local environment. Otherwise this impacts the carbon reduction targets of Enfield and London.

7. Since 2020 all crematoria within the UK (roughly 240 facilities) will need to have a zero mercury emissions rate. Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 which are made under the Pollution, Prevention and Control Act 1999 and cascaded down to crematoria under the Process Guidance Notes PG5/2(12) which sets out how they operate to control odour, particulate matter, hydrogen chloride, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, mercury compounds and dioxins.

Regardless of the site, the council must commit to funding, in perpetuity, the ongoing, independent, continual monitoring of these aspects, to prevent lax self-reporting leading

to harmful, illegal emissions, mercury and NOx that damage the health and wellbeing of local residents.

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