
I strongly object to Enfield Council giving planning permission for a crematorium to be built at Firs Farm Wetlands.

The land should be used to build a community hub.

Please see detailed reasoning below.

COMMUNITY HUB OR CREMATORIUM – ENFIELD COUNCIL MUST DECIDE

The Trustees, Friends of Firs Farm Wetlands and the local community are alarmed that Firs Farm Recreation Ground has been identified as a potential site for a crematorium in Enfield Council's Draft Local Plan (6.10 Policy DM BG10: Burial and crematorium spaces).

Whilst we appreciate that Enfield like many other London Boroughs will need an additional crematorium and burial space to meet future population growth, we strongly believe that siting it in the heart of Firs Farm, adjacent to the Wetlands and playing fields would be a serious error of judgement.

Over the past six years, the Council, The Friends of Firs Farm, corporate partners and the wider community have devoted both time and significant sums of money to create this award-winning habitat & flood alleviation project, which is identified as a key community asset in Enfield Council's own Green & Blue Strategy.

What's more, the specific location within Firs Farm shortlisted for a new crematorium in the Local Plan is the former car park, where the Friends of Firs Farm in conjunction with Enfield Council have submitted a planning application to build a community hub, with café, toilets and flexible space for the use of the local community. Included in the plans are a Changing Places toilet for the use of people with disabilities, as well as a sensory garden for people of all ages to enjoy.

Toni Guiver, Trustee and Chair of the Friends of Firs Farm explains:

“We await urgent clarification from Enfield Council as to how Firs Farm has been shortlisted for a crematorium in the Draft Local Plan, on a location already designated for community use. Firs Farm Wetlands is a site of important ecological significance in a residential area, with close proximity to three schools.

So many people have worked hard since 2014 to create this valued community asset and flood relief scheme that ticks all boxes: Health Education & Environment, Recreation, Biodiversity & Sports. Enfield Council has spent more than £1m in developing Firs Farm Wetlands; while many organisations and big stakeholders have and still are putting funding into the community hub and future development of Firs Farm for all in the community. This inclusion also directly contradicts Strategic Policy SP CL4: Promoting Sporting Excellence in the Local Plan, which shortlists Firs Farm

as a site for “the development of first-class, publicly accessible strategic sport and leisure facilities to meet the needs of the growing population”.

Unless Firs Farm is withdrawn from the shortlist of sites for a new crematorium with immediate effect, removing the uncertainty, funds already earmarked for the development of the community hub and the sports facilities are at serious risk”.