

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important consultation.

I am writing to 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) It would be detrimental to the emotional and physical well-being of the community and the numerous people that visit this beautiful space. It was a "life saver" during lockdown and continues to be a lifeline to a great number of people, of all ages and all backgrounds.
 - 2) As a devout Greek Orthodox I also object to this on religious grounds as the body is God's creation and cannot be burned. Furthermore, I am given to understand that in Islam also that cremation is "haram," or an unclean practice. Have the residents of the area been asked for their input on this decision taken by Enfield council?
 - 3) Has the toxic pollution released from crematoriums been considered? It is a densely populated area with several schools nearby. What about the population's health?
 - 4) Finally, I have asked for a SINGLE tree to be removed from the pavement in front of my house and been told that this is impossible. (I wanted to create a car drive to safely get out of the car). On several occasions my wife, mother-in-law, daughter and I have had near misses disembarking on the road... How is it that Enfield Council is now suggesting that several trees in the green built can simply be destroyed? I find this very hypocritical behaviour.
- Firs Farm wetlands is a vitally important community resource, essential to the health and 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.**"