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I am writing about the proposal to convert approximately half of Firs Farm Wetlands into a cemetery. My family and I are hugely saddened by this proposal. We live in the Winchmore Hill area and our two children go to Highfield Primary School which is very near the wetlands.

We have happy memories of cycling, playing football and exploring on this currently expansive area, including during the recent lockdowns. Our two sons also have benefited from organised activities here, including with our 20th Southgate cubs group, as well as football training. Losing half of this area to a cemetery would be hugely detrimental and we really cannot understand the reasoning behind this proposal.

Such open spaces are highly valuable from the point of view of biodiversity, as well as for the well being of families and the community. We have many friends who live even closer to the wetlands than we do. Were this proposal to go ahead it would be a huge blow for us all - the Winchmore Hill community more widely would have lost a valuable green space. The Local Plan itself does acknowledge the value of wetlands and green spaces, stating an aim to preserve them.

Hence, given that land is at such a premium in outer London, I cannot understand why building a new cemetery is considered by Enfield Council to be a higher priority than maintaining such green spaces, given the range of environmental and social benefits that they bring.

We urge the Council to drop this proposal from the Local Plan.