

Subject: To remove all Reference to Firs Farm wetlands from Policy SP CL4

The proposal to shortlist Firs Farm Playing Fields as one of four potential sites for a crematorium is a flagrant violation of Enfield Council's own green and blue protocols, and, should it be given the go ahead, it would undeniably detract from much of the hard work already done, and particularly by the Friends of Firs Farm, to the detriment of the local area.

My objections are as follows:

- **Location.** Totally unsuitable given the proximity of local schools such as Firs Farm and Winchmore Hill. It would also be in the plum middle of a residential area.
- **Environmental.** The area already has to contend with increased emissions from the nearby A10 (due to increased traffic volume), and this is compounded by the fact Firs Lane gets heavily congested during school times and at weekends. Furthermore, Firs Lane is a narrow road and its 'width' restriction inevitably causes vehicles to slow down and, therefore, pollute more. It has also absorbed more bus traffic. It really has reached saturation point.
- **Education.** I have often seen schools using the 'teaching area' near the wetlands. This is a great facility and to be overshadowed by a crematorium in the background would detract from this.
- **Biodiversity.** The area, previously just playing fields, has greatly been enhanced by the work undertaken the Friends of Firs Farm, and the creation of the 'Wetlands and the opening up of the ancient woodland (previously enclosed) area, complete with its forest trails, has attracted a whole new audience. It's a haven for local wildlife and some very old trees.
- **Sport/leisure** Firs Farm has excelled in this area and, given that the pathways have also been upgraded, I would estimate that the number of families/walkers using FF has increased ten-fold, and there has also been

an undeniable and appreciable hike in the number of cyclists and joggers using the area. The installation of the floodlit tennis courts (used all year round) and the table tennis area (two tables) have further enhanced the sporting legacy. I note the continuing presence of Sunday football and teams training there during weekdays. I've also seen rugby clubs (occasionally) using this as a training facility.

- **Community.** It has become a veritable community project and the community play a considerable role in driving the Firs Farm project forward. I share the view that it could be enhanced even further by adding a community café/gym, but a crematorium?

Clearly, the council needs to seriously rethink its proposal. I can only commend the hard work done by the many volunteers, and congratulate them for upgrading and enhancing what was previously a bland area. To install a crematorium represents a huge slap in the face for so many. I'm sure that you will understand the depth of local feeling against this project.