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I write to object to draft policy DM BG16 in the draft Local Plan which proposes to allocate Firs Farm Wetlands site ID SA59 as a site for burial and/or crematorium use.

My young children, husband and I have used Firs Farm Wetlands multiple times a week, every week, for the past 4 years (since moving into the area). We use it for exercise, playing football, table tennis, bike rides and jogging (as it feels much safer jogging in open green space, than jogging on the streets as a young female). It is also the only green space which is close enough for young children to walk to if they live in the Firs Lane area as Groveland's park is too far for young children to walk to. Volunteers of Firs Farm have worked endlessly to provide a green, healthy, educational and stimulating environment for local families. To have a building placed in the middle of this green space will be devastating and will have devastating effects on the community, especially those from poorer backgrounds who often can't afford to take their children to farms and wildlife parks. Along with these points my objection is also based on the following;

1. Enfield already have a Crematorium on the A10. Has the option been explored to extend those existing facilities rather than create a new site which would have greater cost implications
2. Strategic Policy SP CL4 in the draft Local Plan identifies Firs Farm as facilitating and contributing towards developing sport and leisure facilities in Enfield. These sporting activities will be severely impacted with the closely located crematorium with it's incinerator and car parking issues.
3. There will be increased funeral traffic and parking issues on Firs Lane and surrounding roads along with the additional bus service introduced in 2020. These roads serve a thriving young community of Schools, sporting activities and Nature education sessions. I do not believe children should be seeing hearses arriving or leaving the crematorium as this will have an impact on their wellbeing. Young children should not have to see or hear funerals at their young age. There is plenty of time to consider death when they grow older and are able to cope with

it better.

4. The introduction of a crematorium, especially in such close proximity to schools, will significantly affect air quality in the direct vicinity, particularly with young people who will have to contend with smell and pollution caused by the crematorium. It is totally inappropriate to build a crematorium next to a school. The wellbeing and mental approach of children has not been considered.
5. I understand the location of a crematorium requires public transport. Note that the introduction of bus service 456 in March 2020 is still being monitored to establish its financial viability - this service is currently under-utilised and still being reviewed with an outstanding FOI request on passenger numbers pending.
6. I understand a Crematorium cannot be located within 200m of a residential dwelling. There are at least 2 houses on Barrowell Green (numbers 164 and 166) that are positioned less than 200m of the proposed site. There are also houses on Rayleigh Road that are also less than 200m as the crow flies
7. Introduction of a crematorium or burial ground to that site will impact on the valued ancient hedgerows which continue to require protection. This matter has a raised profile as it featured on the ITV 10pm News programme yesterday, on Monday 6th September 2021
8. Since its official opening in 2016, the Wetlands have continued to provide a valuable space for the community and is still documented on Enfield Council website dated March 2016, *'This week saw the opening of the new £900,000 wetlands/flood alleviation scheme and cycleway in Firs Farm Park in Winchmore Hill. The project aims to tackle pollution, prevent flooding, bring wildlife into the park and make it easier for visitors to access the area'*. The building of a Crematorium or burial ground will reduce the effectiveness of the flood alleviation provided by the current Wetlands site.
9. A reduced Wetlands area will have an effect on peoples mental /physical health and wellbeing as this facility has continued to serve the community and has been so valuable especially during the Covid lockdowns
10. The plan conflicts with Enfield Council support of 'Green' projects and protection of ancient hedgerows. Examples published on the Council website are;

- a. Thousands of new trees to give Enfield 'green lungs' and create publicly accessible woodland- published on 23/7/2020
- b. Enfield's woodland restoration project received £679k from Green Recovery Challenge Fund - published in December 2020