

---

I write to strongly oppose the proposed redevelopment of Firs Farm Wetlands to make way for a crematorium. I am a local resident.

I personally know the site very well, and visit multiple times a week. I exercise and run loops of the wetlands many times each week, I also visit regularly with my children, to use the play area, play football and teach them about nature. It has been a saviour for me and my mental health these past few years, particularly during the pandemic and the thought of it being altered has caused me great concern.

My additional reasons for protesting this development:

1. Habitat degradation and destruction: the selected location (and boundary) for the crematorium will result in the degradation and potential destruction of key habitats at Firs Farm. The site features ancient hedgerows, ecologically important plant species and animal species, such as water voles which are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, against intentional killing, capture or injury and intentional or reckless disturbance, obstruction, damage or destruction or their burrows. The development of a crematorium, meters from the watercourse, will no doubt disturb the water voles. The area is also a site for nesting bats, which are also protected.
2. Physical site unsuitability - according to Enfield Council's own guidance, the site is at risk of flooding.
3. Contradictions to Enfield Council's reasons for constructing the wetlands. The wetlands were created to combat air pollution, filter groundwater and remove contamination. And to protect against localized flooding, which is projected to worsen with climate change. The construction of this complex contradicts the purpose of the wetlands.
4. Creation of air pollution - The wetlands creates a small buffer against the A10 which runs past it, and is a major source of air pollution. The proposed site would create additional, crematorium emissions, in what is a residential area, that borders a secondary school.
5. Increase in traffic - The crematorium will result in a large increase in traffic, bringing with it congestion and pollution. It does nothing to benefit the community and crematoriums are better built much further out of London. They are not places where individuals need to visit regularly so it is of no inconvenience to visitors to place crematoriums further away from cities - the only inconvenience will be felt by local residents. This further contradicts Enfield Council's plans for low traffic neighbourhoods and reduced emissions from vehicles.
6. Further contradictions to Enfield Council's approach are reflected in Enfield's Blue and Green Strategy, to improve the quality and connectedness of blue (aquatic habitats) and green (terrestrial) spaces in Enfield. "Over half of the borough is

classified as blue or green spaces, making us (Enfield), one of London's most treasured environments", "Our parks, trees, open spaces, routes and watercourses represent some of our best and most valued assets". The proposed development challenges the apparent commitment to improving the area's green and blue spaces across the borough, in the heart of our diverse and thriving green space.

7. Loss of amenity land. The area is used for sports, exercise, family activities such as picnics, dog walking and children's play, which would be stopped and / or severely hampered by the plans.

I would appreciate being kept abreast of this situation and if there is to be a local council meeting where there is the opportunity to discuss these objections, please let me know.