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I am writing to express my distress and disbelief that the Enfield Draft Local Plan contains a proposal for the development of a crematorium in the Firs Farm Wetlands Park and Playing Fields. **I object to draft policy DM BG16 in the Draft Enfield Local Plan which identifies Firs Farm Wetlands (Site ID SA59) as a site for burial and / or crematorium use.**

I am a mother of two children living on Firs Lane just down from the wetlands. My family benefits greatly from having the wetlands on our doorstep. We feel proud to be able to tell visitors to our home of this remarkable natural asset for our community. We value the educational benefits that the wetlands provides. My children have enjoyed pond dipping, spotting tadpoles, dragonflies, watching ducklings grow up in springtime, and learning the names of different types of geese who are attracted to the wetlands. Children and adults from all over Enfield come to play football, tennis, go running, meet for picnics, go walking in the woods, all of their health and wellbeing benefiting by being able to access this space.

This proposal goes against Strategic Policy SP CL4 in the draft Local Plan - which says that the Firs Farm wetlands location is key to developing sport and leisure facilities in Enfield. Other policies in the draft Local Plan identify Firs Farm wetlands as a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation. Building a crematorium will reduce the biodiversity of the location. The pollution created from the cremation process will eventually seep into the waterways, cause groundwater contamination, and adversely affect the environment of the wetlands.

Plans are already in place - endorsed and supported by Enfield Council - to create an indoor community space which will attract even more people to enjoy sport, learn about their local environment and varied local wildlife. The plans for this community space are exactly where the draft Local Plan suggests a crematorium is built. Funding sources are already becoming anxious at the uncertainty for this space. They are considering withdrawing their support (Thames Water, Sport England).

This proposal not only threatens the future of the Wetlands but the green space behind Sainsbury's - site SA32. The pandemic taught us how very important it is to prioritise outdoor spaces in our communities. All Enfield residents deserve to be able to access outdoor space and as our elected officials it is essential that you consider the psychological impacts of new residents. Within the current draft plans, there is a proposal to build new housing, but much of which are apartments with no dedicated outdoor space. In the event of another pandemic and lockdown, they will not have access to the same nearby green spaces. This could increase stress and tension households, and as we saw in the early part of the pandemic, an increase of domestic violence and of risk to vulnerable people. This would put further strain on the mental health services in Enfield, many of which are already at breaking point. Other local services such as GP surgeries and schools are already at capacity. Building high rises and bringing more people into the community will be of creating more of a problem - of people will living so close to one another with no access to essential services, I call on the council to abandon the plan to build apartments on the Sainsbury's site and instead focus on improving community assets for the current

residents of Enfield.

I am appalled that the council is considering building a crematorium on the Firs Farm wetlands site and urge them to remove all reference to Firs Farm Wetlands and Playing Fields from policy SP-CL4.

i also call on the council to remove the plan to build 299 homes on the Sainsbury's site (SA 32).