
I object to the draft policy **DM BG10 in the Draft Enfield Local Plan**. This allocates **Firs Farm Wetlands (Site ID SA 59)** as a site for burial and or crematorium use. My reasons for opposing this proposal are as follows.

VOLUNTEERING/ FUNDRAISING

'The Friends of Firs Farm' are in my opinion unique within the London Borough of Enfield. Volunteers have worked with local residents, schools and other institutions, in partnership with London Borough of Enfield. They have created an amazing facility. You only need to read the 'Friends of Firs Farm' website to understand what a monumental achievement that this has been. How can all this be wasted? Volunteers have fund raised tirelessly and are almost at the stage of building a cafe (community hub) but funding for this may be lost if sponsors think the site is going to be used for other purposes.

SOCIAL DEPRIVATION AND POLLUTION

'Firs Farm Wetlands' is situated in the centre of the London Borough of Enfield. The A10 road borders one side of 'Firs Farm Wetlands' and the air pollution level due to continuous heavy traffic is very high. If any of the trees and grass land behind the road are lost, the air will become more polluted and endanger the lives of local residents in particular young children. The area around the A10 has been designated as one with a high level of social disadvantage. At present many of the people who may be included in this group are using 'Firs Farm Wetlands' to walk with their children, exercise after work, play on the sports fields and actively participate in events organised by 'The Friends'. The many families and groups who love the Wetlands will be devastated if they learn that they may lose it. However having just recovered from Covid and all related problems, possibly lost their jobs, they do not have time to write to you as they are too busy trying to survive!

EDUCATION

There are close to 3000 pupils attending three schools all of which are only five minutes walk away from 'Firs Farm Wetlands'.

These schools and those further a field are using, 'Firs Farm Wetlands' to support many areas of the curriculum.

A range of subjects that are being supported include;

Personal Social and Health Education - Projects which engage pupils in practical tasks, to improve confidence self esteem and cooperation with one another.

Biology - understanding biodiversity and the importance of conservation of our native species.

Engineering - Studying sustainability and the importance of flood alleviation.

On a personal note I would like to tell you about my daughter in law Helen. Helen is a teaching assistant at Winchmore School. She works in the A. R. P (Alternative Resource Provision). Winchmore School's A. R. P caters for pupils with autism. Helen and colleagues have enjoyed using the facilities of 'Firs Farm Wetlands' on numerous occasions. The pupils volunteered to do litter picking as a part of their 'Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award'. They raised £600 towards the Community Café. It was hoped that in the future pupils from A.R.P. might be able to gain valuable work experience serving refreshments in the cafe. They helped to plant the Japanese Sakura Cherry Trees and have their own tree. They have used the facilities of the outdoor classroom to enhance their learning.

MENTAL/ PHYSICAL HEALTH

For the last two years of the Covid 19 Pandemic, everyone was constantly reminded of the benefits of keeping fit, exercising and having fresh air. Lack of exercise can cause obesity and other heart problems. Mental Health problems caused by isolation and loneliness have grown. However this is not just a problem during a pandemic. It has always been a problem especially in built up areas. 'The Friends of Firs Farm' have created opportunities for people to meet and also do a useful job in helping to maintain the wildlife areas and other initiatives. Many people use the accessible path ways to exercise and maintain a healthy body. The community need the green and pleasant land of 'Firs Farm Wetlands' in order to maintain the good mental and physical health of the local community.

This week I have been asking people to sign the petition objecting to the proposal to build a crematorium on 'Firs Farm Wetlands'. I have spoken to a range of people of all ages, neighbours as well as people from further away. All, without exception told me how much they valued 'Firs Farm Wetlands' supported the campaign and signed the petition. Many asked the question,

'How can a Council with a Labour Party majority care so little about the environment, pollution and social inequality?' I understand that there is a need for another crematorium in the Borough but to use the unique 'Firs Farm Wetlands' as a possible site is clearly a terrible mistake and should be rejected by the Council.