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I am writing to object to the draft policy DM BG 16 in the draft Enfield local plan. This policy seeks to allocate Firs Farm Wetlands (Site ID SA 59) as a site for burial/ and or crematorium.

As a local resident my reasons for opposing this policy are

- **Adversely impacts residents quality of life:** Firs Farm wetlands has become an important community utility and focal point - particularly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the space is used by local residents of all ages and demographics daily, as we move to a new normal which will involve significantly more working from home and local digital hubs it is vital that we protect such green spaces for the mental and physical well being of area residents.
- **Increases traffic: / Adversely impacts environment and air quality :** The proposal will have a significant negative impact on the local environment through elevated levels of traffic, there are already three schools and a recycling/waste facility in close proximity which attract high levels of traffic. While Enfield Council has been shutting down roads in other areas effectively creating private roads for some it is diverting more and more traffic to other areas, the roads around Firs Farm have already seen increased levels of traffic due to avoidance of congestion on green lanes caused by the Council's LTN policy.
- **Increases flood risk :** Firs Farm wetlands were developed in part to alleviate flood risk in the area, this policy puts that progress at significant risk at a time when flooding risk continues to rise. As we have seen in the very recent past weather events continue to lead to regular flash flooding.
- **Adversely impacts public health :** The areas around Firs Farm wetlands are heavily utilised for sporting activities, given the paucity of access to facilities in this city it would be wrong to reduce that, it is well documented that sporting activity and regular exercise are critical to deal with the modern obesity epidemic. Having local access to these facilities is of critical importance due to increasing work from home and as desire to reduce traffic going further a field to find alternatives.
- **Adversely impacts the environment :** Building on green space such as this is a clear attack on the environment at a time when we are all being encouraged to protect it, we have significant amounts of derelict buildings and brown field sites in London which should be used before reducing any remaining green space. If green space is to be utilised it should be rezoned green space that the community has no access to (only 22% of green belt is accessible to public and 59% is farm land <https://www.londonfirst.co.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2018-05/Green-Belt.pdf>)
- **Contradicts the plan itself :** Strategic policy SP CL4 identifies Firs Farm wetlands as a contributor to developing sport and leisure facilities in Enfield.

In summary while there may be a need for the proposed facilities, the residents of this area strongly oppose changes to the wetlands area and believe it adversely impacts them in a very significant way. Enfield Council needs to prioritise the living before the dead.