

Re: OBJECTION TO PROPOSED CREMATORIUM AT FIRS FARM WETLAND

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Thank you for acknowledging my email. As you mention that you are noting my feedback, here are my comments on the proposed crematorium, more fully.

According to the Enfield Plan, a site at risk of flooding, air pollution and groundwater contamination, would be unsuitable. Why has it been identified that Firs Farm is suitable, when the wetlands were created specifically to protect against localized flooding (something only predicted to increase with climate change)? Why has this plan been proposed on a site that runs parallel to the A10 – a major source of air pollution, which would be further compounded by crematorium emissions; is it suitable in a residential area that borders a secondary school and is used for sports and recreation? Why has this site been identified when there is a risk of groundwater contamination to the watercourse, especially when the site has not been properly maintained by contractors, to prevent and combat existing pollution incidents? Such questions need to be answered because from the little information so far provided, it seems to be very clear that the site is UNSUITABLE.

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 ancient hedgerows are designated as a site of interest in nature conservation (SINC) due to the presence of ecologically important plant species. Recently, it has also been confirmed that Water Voles have made Firs Farm their home – which evidences how habitat naturalization and restoration bring keystone species back into the ecosystem. It is worth considering that Water Voles are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, against intentional killing, capture or injury and intentional or reckless disturbance, obstruction, damage or destruction of their burrows; the development of a crematorium, metres from the watercourse will no doubt disturb these new residents.

Further contradictions are reflected in Enfield's Blue and Green Strategy that was set out by Enfield Council 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 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". Considering the apparent commitment to improving our green and blue spaces across the

borough, why is Enfield Council proposing this development in the heart of our diverse and thriving green space, that would be doing the *exact opposite* of what they claim to be working towards in the Blue and Green Plan?

Development and lack of pre-consultation: Residents are in need of an indoor accessible community space, which would allow us to take full advantage of the site year round and have an even greater positive impact upon local community and individual wellbeing – physical and mental. These plans are yet to come to fruition, and the proposed crematorium project would degrade the site and be of detriment to the community's well being, over one that would benefit it. Surely, the answer to needing more burial grounds in the borough, is choosing a site where there are no significant conflicts of interest – particularly the work towards improving the borough's green spaces (Blue Green Plan) for the communities that need them. A lack of pre-consultation has given no opportunity for residents and the local community to respond in adequate timing to such plans.

I feel that this site is not suitable for the proposed development of a crematorium, now or ever and the only developments occurring should be to the benefit of the wildlife and community. Please keep me fully informed about this project.



I hereby wish to register my objection to the proposed crematorium at Firs Farm Wetland. Please may I request that I be informed about this project. The first I heard about it was through a local resident's association. I believe that Enfield Council ought to have informed me about this proposal, and have consulted me. I have not been consulted about this proposal, and I would like to have the opportunity to formally register my strong opposition.



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Bernie