
I'm writing with reference to the proposal on **page 80** of the **Enfield Draft Local Plan** regarding the potential development of a crematorium in Firs Farm Wetlands Park and Playing fields. **I call on the council to remove all reference to Firs Farm Wetlands from Policy SP CL4. I object to draft policy DM BG16 in the Draft Enfield Local Plan. This allocates Firs Farm Wetlands (Site ID SA59) as a site for burial and/or crematorium use. I oppose this policy because:**

Firms Farm Wetlands Park and playing fields is a unique area for the local community offering a recreational space where people can meet, exercise and enjoy sporting activity in an area that also enables wildlife and biodiversity to thrive. For these reasons it was a hugely important area during lock down for myself, my family, friends and neighbours and continues to be so now. Losing this area will deprive so many in our local community of such possibilities in the future at a time when many metropolitan open land sites are under the threat of development.

Other key reasons to object are:

1. Firs Farm wetlands is a vitally important community resource, essential to the health and well-being of the local people in many ways.
2. The draft policy directly contradicts Strategic Policy SP CL4 in the draft local plan. This identifies Firs Farm as facilitating and contributing towards developing sport and leisure facilities.
3. The proposal will significantly affect the local site of interest for Nature Conservation, and reduce the biodiversity and nature conservation interest of Firs Farm Wetlands, contrary to several other policies in the draft local plan.
4. The proposal will reduce the effectiveness of the flood alleviation provided by Firs Farm wetlands, which Enfield Council has spent more than £1 millions to provide.
5. The proposal will adversely affect the environment and local traffic, and this has not been properly considered in the integrated impact assessment of the draft local plan.
6. The policy introduces uncertainty into the future use of Firs Farm Wetlands that jeopardises funding for projects secured by local community groups (eg from Thames Water) that have been endorsed and supported by Enfield Council.

