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I am writing to object very strongly to plans to build a crematorium on part of Firs Farm Wetland Centre.

My objections are that:

It is a well used and much needed green space in the area that was an absolute blessing to so many after the last year and half when getting out of the home has been so important for physical health and mental health.

We do have local parks but they were so busy whereas even though Firs Farm was also busy the space and shape of the site meant it felt safer to visit. I know the footfall increased dramatically in the last 18 months.

It is a habitats for wildlife and gives local opportunities for families to observe it.

Firs farm has an educational role and also provides volunteering opportunities to local people enabling them to learn new skills, increase their confidence, share skills and engage in community activity.

I have been waiting with excitement to hear for a long time regarding the planning permission that has been put in by the Friends of the Wetland Centre for a community hub and that this has been delayed. If you went ahead to consider the site as a crematorium this would be on the same site as the community hub. The community hub is needed far more in the area by the local community than the crematorium which you can put elsewhere.

The Community Hub would encourage people to visit more often and stay longer as it would provide refreshments and toilet facilities. It will be a place where locals can meet and reduce isolation and take part in group activities and classes too. If the crematorium was placed there instead it would take a long time to identify if there were any other places suitable for the community hub, then months if feasibility studies, planning and possibly years again waiting for consent.

I feel strongly that some in the local community may be put off from visiting with a crematorium so close especially to the football pitches and recently upgraded tennis courts.

I object wholeheartedly to your proposal.