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Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important consultation.

I am writing to object to draft policy DM BG10 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 as a both a local resident and volunteer with Friends of Firs Farm. I have been visiting the park since as long as I can remember, and we are having a memorial bench put in for my dad who also loved the park. He was a keen birdwatcher and saw the site's first ever Stonechat.

I have been a volunteer here for over two years and have lovingly given countless hours to maintaining the site and keeping it in good condition for visitors and wildlife alike.

The following is a list of more general objections, all of which I agree with:

- Firs Farm wetlands is a vitally important community resource, essential to the health and 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 in Enfield.
- 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.
- The proposal will reduce the effectiveness of the flood alleviation provided by Firs Farm wetlands, which Enfield Council has spent more than £1 million to provide.
- 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.
- The policy introduces uncertainty into the future use of Firs Farm wetlands that jeopardises funding for projects secured by local community groups (e.g. from Thames Water) that have been endorsed and supported by Enfield Council.

I call on the Council to remove all reference to Firs Farm wetlands from Policy DM BG10.

The comments provided in this response to the consultation are my own views.

