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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 because:

- Firs Farm wetlands is a vitally important community resource, essential to the health and well-being of the local community. 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 cause a negative impact on locals mental and physical health as it is one of a few green spaces available in the area. With so many locals not having a garden of their own the wetlands has allowed them to spend time outdoors in a safe space and allow them to appreciate nature. During the pandemic firs farm wetlands became a sanctuary to many as it allowed them to take that all important time away from their homes. With mental health being so affected by the impact the pandemic has had on people's lives, taking away this area which has been a lifeline to many would only lead to higher rates of mental health issues in the local area.
- 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.

