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To whom it may concern.

Our whole family objects 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.

We oppose this policy because:

1. Firs Farm wetlands is a vitally important community resource, essential to the health and well-being of the local people in many ways. Without the wetlands, the Covid epidemic would have been impossible to live with - we cannot stress enough how much this quiet space in nature is necessary for local people to rest, exercise, recuperate and be in nature.
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 in Enfield. Adding a disruptive site contradicts this.
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 million to provide. With climate change and flooding a real local issue, reducing current effectiveness - rather than improving it - is short sighted and will in the end be more costly to the public purse.
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 (e.g. from Thames Water) that have been endorsed and supported by Enfield Council.
7. Wetlands are an extrinsic weapon in the fight against climate change. Wetlands are the most effective carbon sinks on our planet, including smaller manmade ones. We are suffering from the London heat island effect and the wetlands cools and cleans the air and water in the local area, being essential locally AND globally. Doing anything to reduce this contravenes your local sustainability plan.

We call on the Council to remove all reference to Firs Farm wetlands from Policy SP CL4.

Please listen to our concerns.

Thank you,