

Dear Enfield Council,

**Respond to Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021**

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

As an Enfield resident, I am writing to object to draft policy DM BG10 in the Draft Enfield Local Plan. This allocated Firs Farm Wetlands (Site ID SA59) as a site for a burial and/or crematorium use. I oppose this policy because:

1. The Firs Farm Wetlands is such an important resource for the community. It has been a place of respite and tranquillity throughout the Covid lockdown for my whole family. I have a disabled son and the joy of walking him through the wetlands and the surrounding fields through a time of confusion and stress was a saving grace for my family. We benefit greatly from having the open space so close to home as we cannot travel too far with my son due to his condition. This is so important for our mental wellbeing and physical exercise as well as for many other families who live in the community.
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.
3. The proposal will greatly 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. We have watched the wetlands develop over the years and become a hive of activity with families of animals growing and thriving in the wetlands.
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.
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. Especially with two schools in very close proximity to the wetlands. This will cause a huge increase in traffic throughout the day which will in turn cause havoc for the local community.
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's 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 are my own views.

Regards