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Dear Madam, Sir,

I am writing to object in the strongest possible terms to the 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. I oppose this policy because:

- My children, together with lots of children and young people from the neighbourhood, enthusiastically took part in volunteering planting activities when Firs Farm Wetlands was but a dream project, also supported at the time by the then local MP candidate [@Bambos Charalambous](#). Having the council now bulldoze its plans to build a crematorium on top of their first volunteering project is likely to seriously impact their community participation in future projects. Who would want to spend any more of their time working on green space projects in Enfield, when the council seems all too ready to turn those successful projects into ash in a few years time?
- The council has rightly declared a climate emergency a few years ago. Giving the go-ahead to a project that pours concrete over a large green space with flourishing wildlife and biodiversity, and approving a crematorium which will pump out CO2 and ash in the atmosphere, goes directly against the council's own pledges to reduce CO2 emissions and adopt more green policies by 2030.
- We have all encouraged our children attending the local schools, especially Firs Farm Primary, Winchmore, Highfields, and Latymer, to walk or cycle to their school, instead of going by car. The draft policy would lead for many to walk/cycle to school by crossing between a graveyard and a crematorium, instead of a beautiful green space. Who would want to send their children to such a journey day in day out?
- Firs Farm Wetlands has been an incredibly valuable asset during the recent times of lockdown, when all travel was discouraged. More and more members of our community came to realise what a wonderful space we have on our doorstep, with people now cycling and walking from all corners of Enfield and further afield, to enjoy this space. This community asset is likely to have saved the mental health of many an Enfield resident, and especially those on lower incomes who perhaps do not have the benefit of a private garden. If this project goes ahead, they would be left to breathe 'fresh air' from a crematorium.

- 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 reduce the effectiveness of the flood alleviation provided by Firs Farm wetlands, which Enfield Council has spent more than 1 million pounds to provide.
- Finally, I am shocked at the tactics employed by Enfield Council, of burying such major, long-lasting proposals deep in a 400-pages set of documents, with no proactive effort whatsoever to make the local community aware of them. This is as bad as it gets in term of participative democracy, with the council acting here as an autocratic family seeking to impose its will while pretending to consult with those directly affected.

With the hope that I am wrong, and you are actually willing to listen to those you temporarily represent, I call on the Council to remove all reference to Firs Farm wetlands from Policy SP CL4.