

Objections to Draft policy DM BG10 (Burial and Cremation space) in the Draft Enfield Local Plan.

Dear Councillor Caliskan

I am writing to object to the above proposal which seeks to develop the Firs Farm Wetlands (site ID SA59) as a site for burial and or crematorium usage. I oppose this policy for the following reasons:

1. Firs Farm wetlands is an important community resource which is essential to the health, well-being and education of the local community. It has been developed in recent years as a natural, environmental site with charity funding and in conjunction with Enfield council. How can the council now make such a U turn on their environmental policy, particularly after spending millions on a cycle lane which no one uses?
2. The proposal to use this site for burial will significantly reduce a nature conservation area, adversely affecting its biodiversity, in direct contradiction to a number of council policies to promote nature conservation. The draft policy directly contradicts Strategic Policy SP CL4 in the draft local plan which identifies Firs Farm as facilitating and contributing towards developing sport and leisure facilities in Enfield. How will this be possible if this site is used for burial, constantly expanding to meet a continuously growing demand?
3. The council has spent more than £1 million developing the Firs Farm wetlands to alleviate flooding. How will the proposed burial site help to alleviate flooding? Will this investment now be wasted?
4. Furthermore, this policy jeopardises funding for projects secured by local community groups (e.g. from Thames Water) that have been supported and endorsed by Enfield Council.
5. There does not appear to have been adequate consideration of the increase in traffic in the area which would happen if the burial site or crematorium went ahead. This is true of a whole range of development projects in the current local plan for Enfield.

I therefore wholeheartedly oppose the policy to use Firs Farm wetlands as any type of crematorium or burial site and will not vote for any council which takes such action.