

Good evening

I am writing to **oppose** the draft local plan of the development of a Crematorium in the Firs Farm Wetlands Park and Playing fields and request you remove all refernece to Firs Farm Wetlands Policy SP CL4.

This once empty space, with the help of National Lottery funding money was developed and turned into the amazing valuable Wetlands that we visit daily. With the help of many volunteers having given many many hours of their time, this oasis of Peace, Nature, Wildlife, Lakes and birds has been our saviour this last 18 months.

When we went into lockdown and couldnt go anywhere, we were fortunate to have this on our doorstep. We walked there every day. Our Disabled Son, who went through an awful heartbreaking time over the past 18 months, would come with us to the Wetlands. His mental state was in a very bad way, he was pacing, shouting, swearing, lashing out and stressed when at home, Our Consultants at Great Ormond Street Hospital advised us to get him out of the house and walk with him to a place that was tranquil, safe and be appealing to his sensory needs, as they were convinced that psychologically it would have a positive impact. We would go there and the smells, birds chirping, the rustle of the established trees all had this unbelievable effect on him.

On arrival at Wetlands, he would be calm, happy and relaxed. We would often spend hours walking round and clocking up many many miles whilst walking, exploring, sharing and discussing all the beautiful surroundings at this wonderful place. The many walks/trails and environment had such a positive impact on his (and ours) wellbeing and mental health.

We still visit daily and our son looks forward to his walks there. He has come a long way this last 18 months and we truly do believe that this Wetlands was what saved us as a family. Through many hospital admissions/discussions with consultants, one thing was very apparent, that when our Son was at Wetlands he was calm and stress free, and this was encouraged and pushed by all involved with him to improve his mental wellbeing.

When you are faced with all of the above and at times you are ready to give up, as you cannot see it get any better, to have this Oasis (as we believe it truly is) on our doorstep was literally a life saver.

Please do not take away our lifeline for happy times and happy minds, With our Social Services already overstretched and limited intervention, this Wetlands definitely continues to be a valuable important part of our lives adn our sons recovery.

Our very own Council leader sent out the local offer flyer whereby it was quoted that GreenBelt was important, as are our open spaces. Having lived in Enfield and deciding to make it our forever home, due to the amazing parks open spaces and now Wetlands, we would hate to have to move out as we felt the residents voices were being ignored. Please do not destroy this beautiful leafy historic borough.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

