

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to the proposed development of the 3.669 hectares of recreation ground, almost all of which is publicly accessible green space, for a crematorium.

Firs Farm Rec Ground is a well-used, well-supported community hub. There has been great investment in the wetlands, there is a thriving volunteers group and Firs Farm as a whole should be celebrated as one of the jewels Enfield has, used by the whole community, and not redeveloped.

The area shown in red includes table tennis tables, football pitches and a key public footway connecting the wetlands forest area to Barrowell Green.

It appears contrary to national, regional and local planning policy to remove and build on green space. In addition, why is Enfield Council considering a new crematorium? And why in this location? The website for Enfield Crematorium, only further up the Great Cambridge Road, states it is one of London's largest:

Dignity operates Enfield Crematorium in partnership with Haringey Council.

Enfield Crematorium was opened in 1938 and is one of London's largest. The crematorium has two chapels, north and south, which can both hold approximately 150 people. The grounds cover approximately 50 acres, most of which is dedicated to the Gardens of Remembrance.

It seems so wrong to remove free, green space young people currently use and replace it with a service that Enfield already has approximately 10mins drive away. In addition, there is a development site next to Enfield Crematorium. Surely it would make sense for that site to be used for a new crematorium space.

In the past, other Boroughs bought land further out and used those as burial spaces (ie Islington Cemetery in East Finchley). Enfield should be doing similar, not seeking to infill well-used green space and deprive residents of an asset.

I would ask Enfield Council re-think this site allocation and look instead to support the local community in continuing to invest small sums in this green space that yield real and positive community impact, giving people spaces to go and play in.