

Dear Enfield Council

**Sites SA59 (Firs Farm Recreation Ground) & SA61 (Church Street Recreation Ground),
pages 380 and 382 respectfully**

We note, sites SA59 and SA61 are designated for a part change of use to provide space for a crematorium. We strongly object to the proposed change of use across both sites on the grounds that these recreation spaces provide an important contribution to public health, well-being and exercise. The new proposed crematorium use would reduce these beneficial uses in areas that are well used by local residents and visitors to the area. Reduced access to exercise will likely lead to unhealthier lifestyles for people which will impact negatively with more pressure and resources being added to the NHS and Council support services.

The proposed uses would be in contrary to Policy DM CL5 (page 280) as the proposal would result in the loss of land associated with sport and recreation that are heavily used and are not surplus to requirements. There is also no clear evidence that the extent of these beneficial uses are able to be re-provided on the equivalent scale locally.

The harm to Firs Farm wetlands is very concerning as the proposed crematorium will take away space from and compromise the surrounding delicate needs of wildlife and wetland habitat. Further noise and air pollution will be added to both locations through the attraction of more vehicular journeys and from creating a brownfield use within a green space that should be protected, not reduced or impacted.

It is important to note, the pathway around this part of Firs Farm wetlands is a 1-mile radius. Members of Edmonton Running Club regularly run around the Firs Farm wetlands at least once a week during several of our preferred local routes and when doing so, see that the affected space and surrounding path is used by walkers, people walking dogs, families with children, elderly, cyclists and runners. This regular shape of Firms Farm and accompanying pathway of 1 mile encourages exercise and has become a target for many to complete a mile or more successive in laps. For example, many users' complete laps with the intention of achieving 3 miles (5k) and 6 miles (10k). This space is used often by members of Edmonton Running Club to practice for such races and even for London Marathon training. This route is therefore sensitive and is documented on the Strava software app. Any reduced access or alteration will therefore impact very negatively on members of Edmonton Running Club and other users.

In summary, both sites are very popular and regularly used by our running club and the

public and on that basis we strongly object to the proposed new uses for these sites as currently noted in the draft local plan. The Council should look for different more under-utilised spaces, ideally brownfield land, if there is a proven need for a further crematorium to be built in Enfield.