

Dear Enfield Council

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

I am writing to object to draft policy DM BG16 in the Draft Enfield Local Plan, which allocates Firs Farm Wetlands (Site ID SA59) as a site for burial and /or crematorium use.

I oppose this policy because:

My older child attends Winchmore School and my younger one will join Winchmore in two years time. I think that the grounds around the school should be as children friendly as possible, promoting healthy lifestyle, social activities. At the moment the grounds of Firs Farm Wetlands are used by so many local football clubs providing essential sports activities for children and teenagers. My sons are attending these clubs, we come for extra exercise there on the daily basis. Building a crematorium will completely change the feel of the whole site and will take up the green space. I think the council should focus on the growing up next generation rather than allocate acres of land for deceased. Why should it be near a secondary school? Why would you take the open space from the children? I think this will adversely affect the lifestyle and possibility for sports activities of local residents and all those who would come to wetlands for recreational and sports purposes. Firs Farm wetlands is a vitally important community resource, essential to the health and 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.

I understand that by constructing a crematorium and other burial facilities Firs Farm Wetlands will lose a number of sports pitches. The council should think more of how to provide more facilities for young people and keep them off the streets and undesirable activity etc. There's a skating park just by the edge of the cemetery - I can see how popular it is among young adults - I think that council should expand that and make it bigger and less by the highway. You squeezed the kids skating park just by the extremely busy highway and are planning to give away more park space further from the road for dead people instead of the living. This is nonsense. I think this money would be better spent if it were used for more sports activities and free facilities for children and young people like skatepark or athletics track. This would definitely have a better affect on the life of children and adults local resident or not.

Among other things the proposal will reduce the effectiveness of the flood alleviation provided by Firs Farm Wetlands, which Enfield Council has spent more than £1 million to provide.

The policy introduces uncertainty into the future use of Firs Farm Wetlands that jeopardises funding for projects secured by local community groups (e.g. from Thames Water) that have been endorsed and supported by Enfield Council.

I call on the Council to remove all reference to Firs Farm Wetlands from Policy **DM**

BG10.”

The comments provided in this response to the consultation are my own views.