

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:

I am concerned about air quality and affect of emissions to air. Firs Farm Wetlands site and the site for proposed crematorium are directly opposite a large secondary school - Winchmore School. By planning to build a crematorium on the doorstep of the school the council shows absolutely no regard for health and well-being of growing up children.

Yes of course there are health and safety regulations but accidents happen - and in case of any malfunction or breakdown it will be kids breathing in abnormal emissions harmful to health. I think it is an awful idea to consider building a crematorium in front of the school or in such close proximity to it. You are planning to take away at least three sports pitches for that and spoil the air. What is the thinking behind this?

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. 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 young 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.**