

Dear Enfield Council

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

Appreciate the opportunity to respond to this important consultation.

I am writing to object to draft policy DM BG10 in the Draft Enfield Local Plan. This allocates Firs Farm Wetlands (Site ID SA59) as a site for burial and/or crematorium use. I oppose this policy for the following reasons:

1. 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. This space was used extensively by families during lockdown to help with their health and wellbeing, removing such a valuable piece of green land would be detrimental to our community.
2. Enfield's Blue and Green Strategy (2021-2031) talks about protecting, maintaining and enhancing the borough's network of blue and green assets, how does building a crematorium on one of Enfield's most valuable assets (Firs Farm Wetlands) make sense? To quote directly, "*we are committed to increasing the amount of the borough's green cover to help mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change*"
3. 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.
4. The increase in traffic along Firs Lane has not been considered, this is already a busy road with school entrances and a bus route, adding additional vehicles and traffic increases pollution and noise. This is a massive contradiction to the Quieter Neighbourhoods Project set up by the mayor of London to reduce the volume of motor traffic in residential areas.
5. These fields are used by many football clubs around the area, helping young children focus on fitness and sport. According to the Strategic Policy SP BG1: Blue and green infrastructure network, the provision of world-class sport villages in Firs Farm is being prioritised.
6. The policy introduces uncertainty into the future use of Firs Farm wetlands that jeopardises funding for projects secured by local community groups

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.

