

Dear Enfield Council,

**Response to draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021 – Objection**

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Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important consultation.

As an Enfield resident, I am writing to state my objection to draft policy DM BG10 in the Draft Enfield Local Plan. This allocates Firs Farm Recreation Ground (Site ID SA59) as a site for a burial and/or crematorium use.

I oppose this policy because:

1. Firs Farm Wetlands is a site of important ecological significance in a residential area, with close proximity to three schools and sports fields. Firs farm wetlands is a vitally important community resource, essential to the health, and well-being of the local people in many ways. The wetlands and it's surrounds have become a well used, central community feature with the wetlands, fields, sports fields, tennis courts etc and are used by residents of Enfield as well as Edmonton.

The Wetlands and it's surrounds is beneficial in terms of health, education and environment, recreation, biodiversity and sports. Throughout the covid pandemic local people, including myself, have used this area as a place of respite during difficult times. It has been hugely beneficial, both from a mental health perspective and as a space for physical exercise.

Building a crematorium in this area would have a seriously negative impact on the area and the community it serves.

2. Firs Farm is Metropolitan Open Land, giving it the same level of protection as the Green Belt.
3. 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.
4. The proposal will significantly affect the local site of interest for Nature Conservation and reduce the biodiversity and nature conservation interest of Firs Farm wetlands, contrary to several other policies in the draft local plan.
5. 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.

6. The proposal will adversely affect the environment and local traffic, and this has not been properly considered in the Integrated Impact Assessment of the draft Local Plan.
  
7. 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's water) that have been endorsed and supported by Enfield Council.

I call on the council to remove all reference to Firs Farm Recreation Grounds from policy DM BG10

The comments provided in this response are my own views.