

I am deeply concerned about many of the aspects of the draft Local Plan and feel that little thought and consideration has gone into the document regarding the nature and make up of Enfield and the reasons why people choose to leave here, stay here and move here. The writers of the document have made too many assumptions about housing need, government policy and managed to upset the majority of the inhabitants of the borough who have taken any amount of time to read it.

My objections are numerous but I will focus on two items which are particularly pertinent to me.

**Policy (SA60)**

**Building of a crematorium on the Firs Farm Wetlands site**

This site is not only a wonderful example of how local people can work with the Council and with other agencies to create an incredibly calm and beautiful space in an urban area but the site also plays an important role in the flow of water and flood alleviation in the area. The watercourse and drainage team working for Enfield Council have worked extensively with local residents and other groups to create a wonderful space for wildlife at the same time as helping the environment. Not only that but the area helps people in many ways - exercise, mental health, introducing young people to nature, etc etc.

The Council's own document of June 2021 on the issues and approaches relating to the plan states under 2.1.11 that "In looking to the future, the Borough faces challenges. Man-made climate change is transforming the Borough, raising real risks of flooding and overheating. The biodiversity crisis threatens valuable species and habitats." Why then would the Council choose to build on an area which has addressed this issue now and is helping in both alleviating flooding and helping preserve the very habitats and valuable species that the Council refers to?

To suggest that a crematorium be built which would take up a huge area of the site and for that crematorium site to be exactly where the Friends of Firs Farm Wetlands had asked for permission to build a visitor centre etc is extraordinarily insensitive and quite the wrong place for a crematorium which brings with it a large building, car parking and continual traffic from attendees of services. It is quite inappropriate to have such a facility on this site and to take up a large part of what has been sensitively planned and planted and adapted over the past few years for local people to enjoy and benefit from.

The document does not seem to realise that this land is not just a "recreational space" but a real asset to the borough and its inhabitants.

**SA32 - Sainsburys Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill, N21**

This superstore works well for the area and the current layout ensures that traffic flow is all from the main road in Green Lanes with the original trees and landscaped area being retained at the back of the site. Because of this layout, a vast proportion of the customers who use the store are very local and do not use a car to shop there. This is what the borough is trying to encourage and yet by suggesting the site be used for the building of 299 houses this would mean that all the local people who walk to the store would no longer be able to do so and would need to drive somewhere to shop. The shop is a thriving store, is well run and provided a real lifeline for people during the recent Covid 19 pandemic. It beggars belief that the Council say on the one hand that they want residents to walk and cycle everywhere but on the other hand want to take away the facilities that we do actually walk to.

Our doctors surgeries and our hospitals are at saturation point and our roads are getting busier and busier. If this Council really wants to make a difference and help us make the borough of Enfield a greener and more environmentally friendly place to live, they need to think this plan through again and realise that by taking away all the spaces and facilities that people hold dear and have put time and effort into making something for everyone to enjoy, they will make the area a concrete jungle that no-one wants to stay in, live in or contribute to. Once these spaces and facilities have gone, they cannot be brought back. The Council, especially the writers of this draft plan, need to think again and remember that we are talking about people's lives and futures here and listen to what the residents of Enfield are saying to them.

I do hope that the Council listen to residents' objections and take on board many of the comments and suggestions that they receive. The Local Plan is not fit for purpose and needs to be rewritten with the comments, thoughts and views of local residents taken into account.