

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed crematorium at Firs Farm.

As a mother to two young children, Firs Farm is an essential local spot for us. Given the issues that London has with air quality and the well-documented impact this is already having on children's health in the capital, we were concerned about starting our family here. However, when considering a move to Palmers Green last year, we were so pleased to find Firs Farm nearby, a green recreational space where we could spend time as a family - it played a key role in our decision to move here. I now walk there every day with my children and my partner runs there every evening and I was shocked and saddened to learn that this precious space may be developed in a way that would worsen air quality, increase traffic, and impact the wildlife and natural environment that make Firs Farm such a lovely place to spend time.

The whole recreation park, not just the wetlands, provides vital lungs for our area, mitigating some of the negative impact of our proximity to the A10. Developing part of this space for a crematorium will not only take away this benefit but will introduce high levels of CO2 and NOX emissions - both as a result of the cremation itself as well as the additional related traffic. This will absolutely impact the health and wellbeing of our young family and take away from one of our key reasons for moving to the area. Furthermore, Winchmore School is directly across from the proposed site and I dread to think of the effect that this will have on the young people that attend the school daily.

Beyond the air quality issues, I feel that increasing traffic in an area which already has high load (evidenced by the traffic calming measures along Firs Lane) will reduce quality of life in our community. This also runs counter to the Council's Quieter Neighbourhoods scheme and wider plans for the area - indeed, the Council noted in a [report](#) that were it not for the impact that Covid has had on funding, it would be their ambition to have by now brought about "some firm plans for the Firs Lane Quieter Neighbourhood; and that these would have been **focussed around reducing both the speed and volume of traffic.**" Building a crematorium here will only increase this traffic volume.

Developing this green space that provides so much value to the environment, the community and its residents while installing a facility that will only increase pollution and traffic in a highly residential area, will make us all poorer as a result. I do understand that there is a need for more cremation facilities, but this site seems to have so many qualities that make it objectively unsuitable (not only for the personal impact that it will have on me and my family) that it's clear that a more suitable site must be found to meet this need.