

Firs Farm Greenspace and the proposed crematorium build at Firs Farm recreation grounds.

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

Dear Enfield council ,

I am writing to object to draft policy DM BG10 in the Draft Enfield Local Plan. This all includes the Firs Farm playing fields greenspace (Site ID SA59) as a site for burial and/or crematorium use. This document will also refer to the adjacent Firs farm Wetlands. I oppose this policy because:

Firs Farm playing fields and the wetlands as a greenspace is a vitally important community resource, essential to the health and wellbeing and ecosystem of the community and the area as a whole. 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.

The proposal will significantly affect the local Site of Interest for Nature Conservation, and reduce the biodiversity and nature conservation interest of the Firs farm playing fields greenspace and Firs Farm wetlands, contrary to several other policies in the draft Local Plan.

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 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.

The policy introduces uncertainty into the future use of the Firs Farm playing fields and 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 and review their plan in relation to the whole Firs Farm greenspace including the Firs Farm playing fields. I will refer to Firs Farm wetlands and the Firs farm playing fields as Firs Farm greenspace to ensure there is no confusion in this document.

As a local resident, parent to two young children and dog owner who visits the Firs Farm greenspace twice a day, I oppose the current draft plan.

Key points:

- This area of greenspace is a key part of the challenges faced with our local and global-ecosystem
- The increased pollution and harmful health implications on local residents and primarily including three local schools, Firs farm Primary, Highfields Primary and Winchmore Hill secondary school. Have the schools been made aware of these plans?
- Firs Farm primary school site is literally adjacent to the Firs farm fields where the crematorium will be built.
- The Firs Farm greenspace already faces the challenges of air pollution running parallel to the A10 carriageway.
- Mental health and wellbeing of children, adults, elderly, vulnerable and the disabled who are extremely dependent on the Firs farm greenspace. This space was vital in supporting the local community during the Covid-19 pandemic, where we were experiencing lockdown restrictions.
- The Football fields, Tennis courts, Table tennis facilities have continued to support the community with their social, emotional wellbeing, while also promoting fitness.
- The Firs farm greenspace has revitalised the area and drawn a pool of community members together. Many locals have now developed positive relationships. People are there reading books, having picnics, children learning to ride their bikes, developing their understanding of nature. Dogs socialising, people jogging. Development of a community with beaming wildlife.
- Building a crematorium completely contradicts Enfield's green (terrestrial) and blue (aquatic) strategy. A crematorium in the Firs farm greenspace does not support the local and global plan on pollution.

- This plan literally contradicts what Enfield is about, it's in the name Enfield - essentially stripping the history and identity of the area. *Enfield Name Meaning*

English: habitational name from a place in Middlesex named with the Old English personal name Eana or Old English ean 'lamb' + feld 'open field'.

Source: Dictionary of American Family Names ©2013, Oxford University Press

- Biodiversity - the habitat allows for many different animal and plant species. This is essential to an ecosystem's health and resilience. Only through biodiversity can ecosystems adapt to change.
- Pollution - When a harmful substance is put into the wrong place/and or in the wrong quantity and harms the environment. Is a crematorium a harmful pollutant?
- Biodiversity hotspot - This is an area with a high amount of biodiversity that is now potentially under threat of being harmed and destroyed. Ecologists worldwide are working tirelessly to intervene and to protect areas like the Firs Farm greenspaces before it is too late.
- Carbon footprint - The amount of Co2 and other fossil fuels that will be created by the crematorium will not improve our environment and undermine positive plans such as the introduction of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN') to encourage people to walk, cycle, and enjoy the greenspace . However, what message does this send if we are taking away our recreational fields from the community?
- How does a crematorium work? Burning of fossil fuels that will be released into our local community, schools, playing fields and homes . Will this support our local climate plan change? The greenhouse gases are a byproduct of burning fuels. These rapid and repeated release of gases are a key cause of global warming and climate change.
- Deforestation - The removal of a number of trees in the Firs farm greenspace, in order to use the land for other purposes.
- Ecotone - The space between the wetlands and recreational grasslands , this only further leads to reduction of the ecosystems where the edge of the recreational grounds meet the forest and wetlands. At what cost do we propose to build on this green space without having to completely sacrifice our natural ecosystems.

- Impact of crematoriums - approximately 400kg of CO2 is generated into the atmosphere per body. Cremation fumes also include vaporised mercury from tooth-fillings, accounting for 16% of the UK's mercury emissions in 2005, along with other toxic emissions from burnt prosthetics and melted bone cement used during common surgeries such as hip replacements.
- Cremation requires a lot of fuel, and it results in [millions of tons](#) of carbon dioxide emissions per year—enough that some environmentalists are trying to rethink the process. Do we really think this is in the best interests of our young and old community members? There will be immediate and long-term health complications.
- The Firs farm and wetlands already has a cemetery in close proximity. Burial, too, has its consequences, with embalming fluid seeping into the soil as the body and coffin decompose, as well as other toxins such as radiotherapy or chemotherapy drugs. To progress with this plan and introduce a crematorium will only serve to leave the Wetlands in the middle of a cemetery and crematorium.
- The Environmental Stewardship Group was formed late 2020 in response to Climate Emergency declarations, and the recognition that the bereavement sector has a substantial part to play in addressing the overarching concerns affecting the UK as a whole. Is Enfield council looking at this research and strategy as part of the local plan for Firs farm greenspace.
- Letter to friends of Firs Farm dated 09.09.21 from Cllr Leader Nesil Caliskan, Leader of the council.

The council won't be building on "Firs Farm Wetlands" . This statement still leaves open the possibility of building on other parts of "Firs Farm Recreation Ground", i.e. the area outlined in red on the Friends of Firs Farm's website, in which case the planned community hub would have to be sited in a different place than has been planned up to now. This statement leaves the Firs Farm playing Fields as an option for a proposed crematorium.

I reject the current draft plan in relation to the **Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021** - draft policy DM BG10 in the Draft Enfield Local Plan. This all includes the Firs Farm playing fields greenspace (Site ID SA59) as a site for burial and/or crematorium use.

