

Dear Enfield Council,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the draft plan to convert Firs Farm playing fields \Wetlands to a crematorium.

This is a much loved public green space that me and my family use on a frequent basis, several times a week. Without fail I always see others enjoying the space too. It is a place I go to help with managing my mental health. I exercise, running or cycling, and walk with my family/friends. One of the most special parts of the space is its openness, away from buildings and traffic. There are regular sports matches, both formal and informal which benefit those taking part physically and mentally, reducing the impact on other local and national services.

Halving the green space will have a hugely detrimental effect.

- The increased traffic accessing the crematorium site will increase pollution levels, especially as it is likely to be slow moving. There are two schools, Winchmore and Firs farm primary, in close proximity whose pupils will be adversely effected by noxious fumes from car exhausts. The sports fields of Winchmore school would be particularly affected. The noise and pollution from this traffic could also displace wildlife which the wetlands was designed to encourage. The volume of traffic in a largely residential area would be increased and this seems at odds with the work the council is doing to encourage active travel such as the cycle lanes and LTNs.

- Reducing the space would disproportionately reduce the number of people who use it. It will be a less attractive space to enjoy being outdoors in. For example, ball based sports need a lot more room and the current space allows for several groups to participate in different areas. I would be less likely to use it with my family for exercise as one of the joys is to run and cycle through grass, avoiding buildings. This in turn could worsen mental health.

- there are a number of established trees planted throughout the site. It's likely that should the current plan go ahead that these would be removed which would have a negative effect on local pollution levels and wildlife who depend on them.

I understand the need to increase crematorium facilities in the Borough but I politely encourage you to find an alternative site which is not an existing green space. For example, Brownfield sites or commercial sites that are not in use could be improved with locating a crematorium alongside tree planting and landscaping.

I would be very grateful if the views of my family and I are taken into consideration.

