



COMMUNITY HUB OR CREMATORIUM – ENFIELD COUNCIL MUST DECIDE

The Trustees, Friends of Firs Farm Wetlands and the local community are alarmed that Firs Farm Recreation Ground has been identified as a potential site for a crematorium in Enfield Council's Draft Local Plan (6.10 Policy DM BG10: Burial and crematorium spaces).

Whilst we appreciate that Enfield like many other London Boroughs will need an additional crematorium and burial space to meet future population growth, we strongly believe that siting it in the heart of Firs Farm, adjacent to the Wetlands and playing fields would be a serious error of judgement.

Over the past six years, the Council, The Friends of Firs Farm, corporate partners and the wider community have devoted both time and significant sums of money to create this award-winning habitat & flood alleviation project, which is identified as a key community asset in Enfield Council's own Green & Blue Strategy.

What's more, the specific location within Firs Farm shortlisted for a new crematorium in the Local Plan is the former car park, where the Friends of Firs Farm in conjunction with Enfield Council have submitted a planning application to build a community hub, with café, toilets and flexible space for the use of the local community. Included in the plans are a Changing Places toilet for the use of people with disabilities, as well as a sensory garden for people of all ages to enjoy.

<https://planningandbuildingcontrol.enfield.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=QVZ3KUJNHBA00&activeTab=summary>



Toni Guiver, Trustee and Chair of the Friends of Firs Farm explains:

"We await urgent clarification from Enfield Council as to how Firs Farm has been shortlisted for a crematorium in the Draft Local Plan, on a location already designated for community use. Firs Farm Wetlands is a site of important ecological significance in a residential area, with close proximity to three schools.

So many people have worked hard since 2014 to create this valued community asset and flood relief scheme that ticks all boxes: Health Education & Environment, Recreation, Biodiversity & Sports. Enfield Council has spent more than £1m in developing Firs Farm Wetlands; while many organisations and big stakeholders have and still are putting funding into the community hub and future development of Firs Farm for all in the community. This inclusion also directly contradicts Strategic Policy SP CL4: Promoting Sporting Excellence in the Local Plan, which shortlists Firs Farm

as a site for “the development of first-class, publicly accessible strategic sport and leisure facilities to meet the needs of the growing population”.

Unless Firs Farm is withdrawn from the shortlist of sites for a new crematorium with immediate effect, removing the uncertainty, funds already earmarked for the development of the community hub and the sports facilities are at serious risk”.

The Trustees urge members of the community to submit an objection to this proposal, directly to the council, via email to localplan@enfield.gov.uk

Email Heading Draft Local Plan Objection

The Friends of Firs Farm have summarised reasons why Firs Farm should not be selected and are urging local residents to submit an objection by the closure date, 13th September 2021:

“I object to draft policy DM BG16 in the Draft Enfield Local Plan. This allocates Firs Farm Wetlands (Site ID SA59) as a site for burial and/or crematorium use. I oppose this policy because:

1. Firs Farm wetlands is a vitally important community resource, essential to the health and well-being of the local people in many ways.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 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 SP CL4.”

For further information see our background notes

**For interviews or further information please contact Toni Guiver,
Chair of The Friends of Firs Farm
07956 537974
friendsoffirsfarm@gmail.com**

BACKGROUND INFO FOR EDITORS

LOCAL PLAN SA59 (APPENDIX C)

Other Site Allocations

SA59: Firs Farm Recreation Ground



Existing Site Information

Address	Firs Farm Recreation Ground (Part)
Site Area	3.669ha
Existing Use(s)	Playing fields and car park

Site Considerations

Flood Zone	1
PTAL	1a
Heritage Considerations	None
Impacts an Archaeological Priority Area	None

Proposal

Land Use Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The site should provide a new crematorium use
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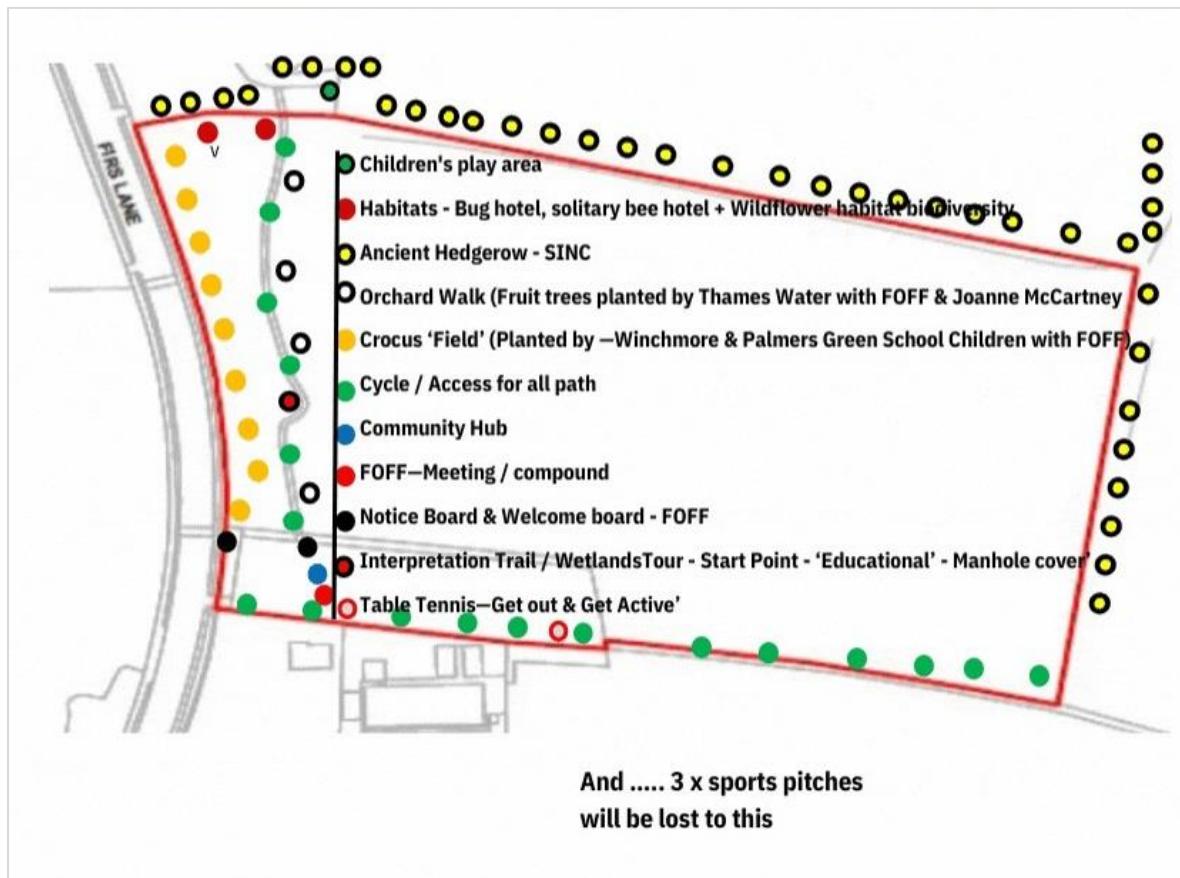
Implementation

Timeframe for Delivery	0-5 years	5-10 years	10+ years
	-	X	-

Estimated capacity by proposed Land Use

Growth Scenario / Spatial Strategy	Baseline / Urban Area only	Medium / Urban area + Green Belt
Capacity Estimate	Crematorium	Crematorium

Community features that will be lost



<https://www.firsfarmn21.org/we-need-your-help-to-save-our-green-space/>

<https://www.facebook.com/FirsFarmWetlands>