

Please reply to: Cllr Nesil Caliskan
Leader of the Council
Email: cllr.nesil.caliskan@enfield.gov.uk
Phone: 020 8379 4116
Date: 9 September 2021

Dear Friends of Firs Farm,

Re: Firs Farm Wetlands

Thank you for contacting me. I am aware Enfield Council officers have recently met with you and have had regular contact with the committee members about the proposals included in our Draft Local Plan and the plans to provide new exciting community facilities at Firs Farm.

Nonetheless, I thought it might be helpful if I wrote to you directly to provide some reassurance in relation to some issues concerning Enfield Council's attempts to find a location for a possible new crematorium in our borough to deal with the increasing pressure being placed on burial space in Enfield.

I would like to assure you that irrespective of whether any of these plans are taken forward we will not be building on Firs Farm Wetlands – a cherished and much appreciated asset. Enfield Council has invested £150k in the Firs Farm Wetlands as part of its commitment to deliver outstanding green spaces in our borough and I do not wish to see the impact of this investment diminished in any way.

I can also confirm that the plans the Friends of Firs Farm and Enfield Council have put together for a café and other facilities at Firs Farm will not be affected. I am pleased Enfield Council were able to work with the Friends of Firs Farm to secure Sport England and other funding for these facilities and we will continue to work with you. I understand that Council Officers have and will continue to speak and meet with the Chair of the Friends of Firs Farm on a regular basis to move this forward.

As a way of background information and to give you a sense of the increasing pressure on burial space provision we are facing in our borough, Enfield Council estimate that we will need to provide an additional 15,152 plots in Enfield by 2041.

Considering this need, the Council is currently exploring options around where we could locate this additional capacity. I have always been clear that the inclusion of specific locations as options for consultation in the Draft Local Plan does not mean that we are committed to taking those proposals forward and implementing them. All feedback from residents will be considered when Enfield Council produces the next draft of this document. This is why the consultation process is so important.

Presently, the Draft Local Plan consultation document identifies three potential sites for a burial ground or crematorium to meet the needs of all our communities. These are:

- The area to the south of Firs Farm Wetlands – but not on the wetlands themselves;
- Church Street Recreation Ground (in Edmonton);
- Sloemans Farm (in Crews Hill)

The consultation process remains live and while I cannot prejudge the result of the Draft Local Plan consultation ahead of it closing on 13 September 2021, I can assure you that the responses we receive from the local community are critical to help the Council review all options presented in the consultation document. This input from the community will help determine which options are developed further.

I trust that this letter addresses the concerns raised in your recent correspondence. I would be very happy to meet with you in person or via video to discuss the matter further if this would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Nesil Caliskan
Leader of the Council