

# Karl Brown

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Via e mail

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## **Consultation on Re-designation of Pinkham Wood**

I wish to object to the proposal to re-designate the Former Friern Barnet Sewage treatment site (Pinkham Wood)

- From: Employment Use (subject to "no adverse impact" on the nature conservation value of the site)
- To: Locally Significant Industrial Use (with no linked protection for the nature conservation value of the site).

We are an intensely crowded area of a crowded city in the second most crowded country in the EU with forecasts produced only this month indicating a substantial increase in the UK as well as world populations. The benefits of green space are well highlighted and many faceted. Their protection must increasingly be taken as a priority for political leaders and those with the powers to determine outcomes. National Policy indicates as such.

The risk of losing an ecologically rich and valuable site, one of only a small number in Haringey designated of high importance for nature conservation and biodiversity, in such a scenario makes little sense. Its protection through no adverse impact is the appropriate priority unless proven otherwise. Given the alternative options for industrial use, eg existing designated areas, the evidenced to support a robust case for change of use to be put forward for consideration should necessarily be thorough.

Correspondence with my Member of Parliament has highlighted that the UK Government has facilitated the means to undertake an assessment of the eco systems and natural habitats on the site to determine its nature conservation value. It appears self-evident that such a thorough appraisal should be undertaken before any change of status is contemplated.

Alternatives for the site are several but in the absence of a credible, robust, justifiable case the status quo should always be the primacy. In the Core Strategy pre-submission draft the site was designated Employment Land with supporting evidence for the designation. The only evidence said to be available which would support a subsequent change relates to consultation with interested parties having vested interests, North London Waste Authority and Barnet Council, to build a waste processing plant and refuse vehicle depot respectively. Such discussions, if the case, simply appear prejudicial to the interests of fairness and natural justice.

A decision affecting such an important site, which will be in place for substantially more than one generation with numerous, well highlighted, adverse impacts on local communities and

opposed by pretty much every body and democratic representative in the vicinity cannot be influenced behind closed doors. We have spent much of the last decade spending blood and treasure across the Middle East and North Africa fighting analogous, undemocratic, autocratic processes and individuals. We surely do not wish the same to carry precedent in the UK.

Let a case be made for the re-designation if appropriate, but let it be open and based on clear facts. And listen to those who do not wish to see any change in this instance.

Yours faithfully