

## PART B: REPRESENTATION

Please repeat your Name or Organisation:

Estover Playing Field Association

3. Did you submit representations on the Proposed Submission Version of the Core Strategy during the public consultation (28 <sup>th</sup> February – 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2013)?	Yes:	X
	No:	(please go to Q6)
	Don't know	(please go to Q6)

4. Did you submit a representation relating to the North-East March Allocation (in Policy CS9 – March)?	Yes:	x
	No:	

5. If you submitted representations on the North-East March Allocation, do you want the comments you make below to replace those previously made (in so far as they relate to the North-East March amendments)?	Yes:	x
	No:	

6. Do you support the amendments to the Proposed Submission Version as set out in the Addendum relating to North-East March?	Yes:	X
	No:	

7. With the addition of the amendments in the Addendum do you consider that the Fenland Core Strategy is legally compliant?	Yes:	
	No:	

8. With the addition of the amendments in the Addendum do you consider that the Fenland Core Strategy is sound?	Yes:	
	No:	

9. If you consider the Fenland Core Strategy with the addition of the amendments in the Addendum is not sound, please identify your reason(s) for this by ticking the appropriate box(es). Please see the Guidance Notes to help you decide.	In my opinion, the Core Strategy is not:		
Positively prepared:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Justified:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consistent with national policy:	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Please use the box below to set out your reasoning behind your response to Q7, Q8 and/or Q9.
<p>It is pleasing to note that Fenland District Council made the decision to remove this allocation from the Core Strategy and therefore support this action.</p> <p>The following was submitted by Estover PFA in the April 2013 consultation which was against the allocation taking place:</p> <p>"Page 62 of the 1993 Local Plan states that "Overall there is currently a slight shortfall in open space and recreational provision; particularly children's play areas where there is estimated to be a shortfall of some 8.7ha (21 acres). The location of open space provision is important and</p>

currently there is an imbalance. To the south west of the town centre there is an abundance of public open space but a definite lack of provision to the north of the river. Current proposals for the extension of the Town Park will improve the overall provision but will not help with the imbalance in location terms. Current planning permissions and allocations will create a need for about another 12.5ha (30 acres) of open space provision although the bulk of this will be developer funded".

In a FOI request, FDC advised that 9.87 hectares of open space has been provided during the period of the Fenland District Wide Plan 1993 to date. Only 7 ha is space which children are allowed to play on and only 3.2 ha is in the north of March. Estover Playing Field consists of just over 19 acres and is counted within Fenlands provision of open space yet the north of March is still facing a shortfall in open space.

The fact that the strategy states that any loss of an existing open space or leisure facility is compensated for either on site or elsewhere within the market town in a suitable location in addition to what provision would ordinarily be expected as part of the urban extension if a need is identified is not effective or justified. The proposal to allocate housing on a well established playing field is totally unacceptable as we should be protecting open spaces. This is in conflict with the Core Strategy objectives "to minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped land and to maintain and enhance the range, amount and viability of habitats and species".

The Estover Playing Field has been a playing field for the last 70 years and it doesn't make sense financially or logically to move a 19 acre site down the road. Sports England have advised that if we were to lose the Estover Playing Field we would have to be provided with a like for like space within the same area - there isn't room for another 19 acre site in an area that is already short on open space.

Within the playing field there are mature trees (all with TPO's) and hedgerows with associated wildlife. Several trees housing the rare noctule bats are important bat roosts.



Estover Playing Field



Estover Playing Field

Ensure that the Estover Playing Field which has been in place for the last 70 years remains as a playing field for the community to use in the North of March. The playing field is in dire need of improvements/replacement of the changing rooms. Estover PFA has been running the playing field for the last 15 years and has hoped to obtain a minimum of a 25 year lease to enable funding to be applied for to improve the facilities. There is a Section 106 Agreement made with Reason Homes (when Cawood Close etc was built) which states that should Estover Playing Field remain as a playing field, the open space on Cawood could be built on which would result in a payment of £100,000 being made to the playing field.

This representation reflects the views of the Estover Playing Field Association.

*Continue on extra sheets/expand box if necessary*

11. If you think that the Fenland Core Strategy (with Addendum) needs further changes, please set out what you consider the change(s) should be to make it legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

We would like to suggest that the Estover allocation is too many for 'windfall' sites in March and propose that the Council reconsider the allocation in Wisbech. In particular there is a site on Sutton Road (North Wisbech) between Sutton Road and the river which was removed by the Council in the early days of the Strategy which would provide an alternative/additional allocation.

Protect the existing playing field (as play and recreation facilities) to remain as a playing field in its entirety and not just create small 'open spaces' which are far too small to be of any use for anything other than a piece of grass.

*Continue on extra sheets/expand box if necessary*

**Please note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation. After this stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.**

12. If your representation is seeking a change, do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the forthcoming public examination (or can it be considered by written representations)?

<p>NO, I do not wish to participate at the oral examination:</p>		<p>YES, I wish to participate at the oral examination:</p>	<p>X</p>
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13. If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary.

To ensure that the Inspector is fully aware of the need for this playing field to remain in situ.

*Continue on extra sheets/expand box if necessary*

*Please note that the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the oral part of the examination.*

**Please make sure you have signed and dated  
the front page of the form**