



Press Release

24 September 2026

Council backs motion supporting sports pitch provision in March

Fenland District Council has endorsed a motion highlighting the importance of securing land for sports pitches and outdoor recreational facilities in March.

Councillors backed the motion at a meeting of Full Council last week, following consideration of a petition submitted by March Bears Rugby Club which called for sports pitches and associated infrastructure to be secured alongside future growth and development in the town.

The motion was presented by Cllr Andrew Woollard, member for March West and Benwick, on behalf of March North member, Cllr Steve Count, who was unable to attend the meeting.

During the debate, councillors supported the motion's principles that sporting infrastructure should be planned alongside new development, and that opportunities to secure additional provision should continue to be explored through the planning process and Section 106 agreements with developers.

Cllr Steve Count, who is also the Council's Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Land Charges and Fenland Inspire! Leisure Projects, said: "Sport is about much more than recreation. It contributes to health and wellbeing, brings communities together and provides valuable opportunities for people of all ages.

"As our community grows, it is important that sports pitch provision in new developments meets, as a minimum, the standards set out in the adopted Local Plan and is given appropriate priority alongside other infrastructure requirements.

"I was pleased to see members support the motion and I hope it gives the community confidence that sport is being properly safeguarded for current and future generations."

Members also acknowledged that while the provision of sports facilities was important across the district, there is a particular need in March.

Leader of Fenland District Council, Cllr Chris Boden, said: "While access to high-quality sport and recreation facilities is valuable to all communities across Fenland, it is especially important that opportunities are available in areas where they can deliver the greatest benefit. March has historically had lower levels of sports

provision and accessible open space than any of the four market towns, which makes it especially important that opportunities to support active lifestyles are considered as the town continues to develop.”

The motion also highlighted the importance of working collaboratively with developers, governing bodies, community organisations and other stakeholders to help secure sporting facilities that are accessible, sustainable and meet local needs.

Ends

Notes to Editors

For media enquiries, please contact the Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226 or email: communications@fenland.gov.uk