

PLANNING COMMITTEE DATE: 15th October 2025

APPLICATION NO: F/YR25/0274/F

SITE LOCATION: Land west of Playing Field, Barton Road, Wisbech

UPDATE – Comments from Stephen Barclay MP.

An objection from Stephen Barclay MP was received on Tuesday 14th of October 2025 following the publication of the committee report. The points raised are:

1. Transport and Road Infrastructure

The Fenland Transport Strategy (2023) and the Local Plan Transport Assessment (2022) both highlight the need for sustainable transport solutions and mitigation of congestion. However, the proposed development:

- *Will significantly increase traffic on North Brink and Barton Road, which are already narrow and frequently congested, especially during school drop-off and pick-up times at Wisbech Grammar School.*
- *Will exacerbate existing hazards caused by poor road conditions, including recurring potholes and inadequate repairs.*
- *Will introduce heavy construction traffic, further deteriorating road surfaces and increasing safety risks for pedestrians and cyclists.*

The Local Plan's Policy LP15 calls for the facilitation of a sustainable transport network, yet this development undermines that goal by increasing reliance on private vehicles without adequate infrastructure upgrades.

2. Cumulative Development Pressure

Recent and ongoing developments such as Barton Manor Care Home, Riverside Meadows Academy, and housing in Cox's Lane and Wisbech St Mary already place strain on local infrastructure. Additional proposals (e.g., land south of Chrysanthemum House and east of Springfield) also rely on Barton Road for access. The cumulative impact of these developments has not been adequately addressed in the planning process, contrary to Policy LP13, which requires infrastructure to support growth.

3. Healthcare Capacity

The Local Plan's Policy LP2 emphasizes the need to facilitate health and wellbeing. However:

- *Local GP practices, including North Brink Practice, are overwhelmed and facing staffing reductions due to increased demand and financial pressures.*
- *Parsons Drove GP Practice is under CQC Special Measures, raising serious concerns about its ability to accommodate additional patients.*
- *Without clear plans for expanding healthcare provision, the development risks worsening access to essential services, violating the Local Plan's health objectives.*

4. Environmental and Utility Concerns

The area's water and sewage systems are outdated and frequently fail, leading to road closures and water outages. The development will:

- *Increase pressure on these fragile systems, risking further disruption.*
- *Worsen existing issues with sewerage smells and unmaintained dykes, which already affect residents' quality of life.*

Recommendation: Approval subject to s106 - The above update does not alter the original recommendation as the matters raised are considered in the Committee Report.