

## **Motion submitted by Councillor Brenda Barber**

### **Preservation of Fenland Landscape and Recognition of the area of Fenland as a Critical Food Producing Area**

This Council notes:

- 1) The unique and valuable characteristics of the Fenland landscape, which not only provides a distinct natural heritage, but also contributes significantly to local biodiversity and the identity of our area.
- 2) The critical role that Fenland plays as a key food-producing area, supporting both local and national food security, and contributing significantly to the agricultural economy.
- 3) The potential impacts of national significant infrastructure projects planned for our area, specifically those related to energy generation and distribution at significant scale, which threaten to disrupt and alter our valuable landscape.

This Council believes:

- 1) That it is essential to preserve the Fenland landscape to maintain its ecological balance, scenic beauty, and historical significance.
- 2) That protecting our agricultural lands is vital for the continued prosperity of local farmers and the broader agricultural industry, ensuring ongoing food production capacity and the nationally significant role that our area plays in feeding the country.
- 3) That any development or infrastructure project within our district must be carefully planned and executed to minimise adverse impacts on our landscape and agricultural productivity.

This Council:

- 1) Urges the relevant national authorities and infrastructure project planners to recognise the importance of the Fenland landscape's role as a food-producing area.
- 2) Advocates for the implementation of mitigation strategies to minimise the visual and ecological impact of infrastructure developments, including the consideration of alternative technologies and routing options.
- 3) Encourages local stakeholders and residents, to engage in consultation processes to ensure their voices are heard and their concerns addressed in the planning and development processes.

- 4) Recognises initiatives that promote the sustainable development of energy infrastructure while balancing the need to preserve our natural and agricultural heritage.
- 5) Supports collaboration with other local authorities, including our partners within the South and East Lincolnshire Councils to present a united front in the protection of our landscapes and agricultural interests.

By passing this motion, we reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding the Fenland landscape and ensuring the sustainability and productivity of Fenland as a vital food-producing area for the benefit of current and future generations.