

Sterns' Reg-16 Representation (7th February 2026)

100-WORD SUMMARY

We welcome the improvements made since Reg.14, especially clearer sustainability, biodiversity and design guidance. We request a few minor modifications to improve clarity and deliverability: add a simple Health & Wellbeing objective; include supportive wording on air-quality and smoke impacts in HEY7; strengthen HEY13 by safeguarding alignment for the Chalk Pit walking route; clarify "equivalent quality" for community space under HEY12; and reference Cambridgeshire mechanisms for speed and traffic management in Community Actions 15–16. These changes do not alter the Plan's strategy but enhance practicality, public-health alignment and implementation.

REGULATION 16 REPRESENTATION

From: Robin & Susan Stern

Plan: Heydon Neighbourhood Plan 2025–2041 (Submission Draft)

1. General Comments

We thank Heydon Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Group for the significant work undertaken. We recognise and welcome improvements made since the Regulation 14 draft, including clearer sustainability expectations, improved mapping of views and gateways, strengthened biodiversity guidance, and more balanced treatment of development in the Vision.

Our comments below mainly request *minor modifications* that would improve clarity, deliverability, and alignment with national guidance on healthy and well-designed places, without altering the strategic character of the Plan.

We feel aware of lack of forward-looking vision in the Plan, appearing more oriented toward older residents, offering no prospectus for younger professionals, nor seeking to benefit from Heydon's position in the most forward-looking region in UK. Heritage should be 2-way: focusing on the heritage we will leave future generations, as well as on preserving and protecting the legacy we have inherited. This remains a broad area for future discussion, and will not stop us from supporting the Plan. Lacking an explicit Health and Wellbeing objective, for example, will.

2. Suggested Minor Modifications

A. Add an explicit Health & Wellbeing Objective (Chapter 4 – Vision, Themes & Objectives)

Although health and wellbeing benefits are implicit across several policies (footpaths, community facilities, dark skies), the Plan would benefit from a concise, cross-cutting objective to aid implementation and to align with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) emphasis on promoting healthy places.

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Proposed addition to the objectives list:

“Objective X: Improve health and wellbeing in the Parish by reducing exposure to avoidable sources of air pollution, encouraging use of solar generation opportunities to help keep people warm in colder temperatures and cool in hotter ones, enhancing opportunities for active travel, and ensuring community spaces meet the needs of all age groups.”

This clarifies existing intent without adding new policy burdens, possibly excepting solar generation.

B. Add supportive text on air quality and smoke emissions (Policy HEY7 Supporting Text)

The village’s compact form and increasing housing density mean that particulate emissions from solid-fuel appliances have a disproportionate impact on residents, especially those with respiratory vulnerabilities. The Sustainability policy provides an ideal place for a short note encouraging good practice.

Proposed addition to HEY7 supporting text:

“Applicants are encouraged to avoid the installation of high-particulate solid-fuel heating appliances in new development and to design ventilation/flue systems to minimise local $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} exposure, consistent with emerging public health guidance.”

This is non-prescriptive, does not conflict with national or Local Plan policies, and supports the Plan’s sustainability aims.

C. Strengthen deliverability of the Chalk Pit walking route (Policy HEY13)

We strongly support the aspiration for a safe off-road pedestrian route to the Chalk Pit. A small clarification would assist landowner negotiations and development management.

Proposed minor modification:

In HEY13(2) or supporting text, note that *“where development occurs adjacent to the Fowlmere Road corridor, proportionate opportunities should be taken to enable or safeguard alignment for the proposed off-road walking route using hedge-line corridors and permissive widths, subject to landowner agreement.”*

This does not mandate works but improves future deliverability.

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D. Clarify the quality expectation for community space at the King William IV site (Policy HEY12)

We welcome the strengthened viability and marketing tests in the Submission Draft. A small clarification would give clearer guidance to applicants and decision-makers.

Proposed addition to HEY12(2):

*“...on-site community meeting space of an equivalent **quantum and quality** to that which would be lost...”*

This avoids ambiguity and ensures any fallback use is genuinely community-serving.

E. Community Actions – Speed & Traffic Management

We appreciate that speed management and heavy-traffic issues sit partly outside NP policy scope. However, Community Actions 15–16 would be more effective if they referenced existing Cambridgeshire processes (20 mph schemes, Local Highway Improvement bids, freight management discussions).

Suggested refinement:

Add to Actions 15–16: *“to be progressed through the appropriate Cambridgeshire County Council processes, including 20 mph scheme applications, Local Highway Improvement (LHI) bidding, and freight routing discussions where applicable.”*

This gives residents and the Council a clearer route to implementation.

3. Closing Statement

We believe these minor modifications would enhance the clarity, practicality and NPPF alignment of the Plan while respecting its existing structure and community-led foundations. We are grateful for the considerable effort already demonstrated and hope these comments assist both the Parish Council and the Examiner in finalising a strong and forward-looking Neighbourhood Plan for Heydon.

Submitted by:

Robin & Susan Stern



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1-PAGE BULLETED VERSION:

A. Add a Health & Wellbeing Objective

- Include a brief new objective recognising the importance of:
 - reducing avoidable air-pollution exposure
 - supporting active travel
 - enabling inclusive community spaces
- This simply clarifies existing content already spread across policies (e.g., HEY7, HEY9, HEY11, HEY13).

B. Add Supportive Text on Air Quality / Smoke Emissions (HEY7)

- Add a non-binding sentence encouraging applicants to:
 - avoid high-particulate solid-fuel appliances in new developments
 - design flues/ventilation to minimise PM_{2.5} exposure
- This strengthens the sustainability message without creating new regulatory burdens.

C. Strengthen Deliverability of the Chalk Pit Walking Route (HEY13)

- Add wording that developments along the Fowlmere Road corridor should, *where proportionate*, help safeguard alignment for the off-road walking route via hedge-line corridors—subject to landowner agreement.
- This improves future deliverability of a widely supported community aspiration.

D. Clarify “Equivalent Quality” for Community Space at the King William IV Site (HEY12)

- Slightly refine text so replacement community space is of “equivalent **quantum and quality**”.
- Helps ensure any fallback use meaningfully serves the village.

E. Strengthen Community Actions 15–16 (Speed & Traffic Management)

- Add reference to established Cambridgeshire mechanisms:
 - 20 mph scheme applications
 - Local Highway Improvement (LHI) bids
 - Freight-routing and HGV-management discussions
- Improves transparency and deliverability without altering policy.

F. Closing

- These suggestions do **not** seek to change the Plan’s strategy or character.
- They simply enhance clarity, public health alignment, and practical delivery.
- We thank the Parish Council and Examiner for considering these improvements.