

## Appendix K: Community Consultation Responses

March Future High Street Fund Bid - Community Consultation			
<b>We would like your views. If you would like to comment on our proposed bid, please fill in the box below.</b>			
Answered	102		
Respondent	Response Date	Response	FDC Project Team comments
1	Apr 26 2020 04:05 PM	<p>High Street Proposal - this will only work if there is another crossing over the river. It's going to cause more congestion in the town centre. If there was another river crossing this could work.</p> <p>Market Place - still feel parking should be allowed. We need to try increase the use in area now and if that successful, then we look at taking parking away. But at the moment, based on current usage, the area is a waste unless using for parking.</p> <p>Acre - would be good to see a shopping development area, but some of those buildings can not be lost. They are too historic to the area. Might be nice to turn the area into a historical sight with pop up market facilities in this area. Create a nice communal area allowing for public events in a safe area, whilst retaining historic area</p>	<p>Modelling of current and future traffic flows indicate that the scheme will improve traffic management, keeping a flow through the town. Additionally it will mean fewer idling cars at traffic lights – this will improve air quality in the town centre.</p> <p>Due to the current use (i.e. parking) the space is not used for other activities. This project's transformation of the Market Place will ensure that the market has the opportunity to become more vibrant and that the local community has more opportunity to use this public space.</p> <p>Our current plans keep the historic buildings and bring them back into use, as well as developing the space around them. This would add another dimension to March, drawing more people into the town ensuring the town becomes more vibrant and sustainable for the future.</p>
2	Apr 26 2020 03:41 PM	I really like the ideas. Having more cafes and outside places to sit and relax would be lovely	
3	Apr 26 2020 03:16 PM	I would really disagree with limiting traffic in the town centre on Broad street, I think the fact you can get there, park and go in a shop keeps the shops alive, if you pedestrianise it there will be	Community feedback previously received highlights traffic as the key issue in the Centre of March. Independent urban design specialists agree that this is the case; these proposals improve traffic flow whilst also rebalancing the

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		<p>nothing but cafes and people from outside march will never visit.</p> <p>Agree with a re road refurb, it's an eyesore, and so is the river area, if you take away the toilets they need to be replaced...people are constantly urinating around the library area outside and it's absolutely disgusting and unhygienic and horrible if you have children.</p>	<p>current traffic-centric focus of March to one that will encourage people on foot or bike.</p> <p>Thank you; toilet provision will be evaluated. Currently the public toilets are lightly used.</p>
4	Apr 26 2020 12:25 PM	<p>Looks good a few play areas for kids always good. Some attractive lighting and water features would be great for the town centre. The shops are dwindling though and a more useful range of retailers would keep people in the town ie sports direct, mountain warehouse, next, maybe m&amp;s foodstore will attract even more people to the town filling empty shops and less travelling for people. Riverside would be great if plenty of bins.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that these proposals will ensure that March becomes a more vibrant town in the future, with more visitors than we currently attract. If this happens, it will encourage shops, as well as a more versatile offer including a more attractive night time economy.</p>
5	Apr 26 2020 11:41 AM	<p>A lot of thought has gone into this to make it right for everyone</p> <p>I think the proposals are good for moving forward in March</p>	
6	Apr 26 2020 10:50 AM	<p>I agree with the proposals</p>	
7	Apr 26 2020 07:08 AM	<p>All looks great I think s whole pedestrian broad street would be better, trying to cross from one side of the street to the other l'd s nightmare. Also more parking is required in the centre if town please. Is there also a way to ease the traffuxtrying toget out of Sainsburys some days that takes up to 20mins especially at Christmas.</p>	<p>There is unused space within the car parks close to the town centre and removing Broad Street parking will further reduce traffic in the area.</p> <p>Improving traffic flow in the North of Broad Street should support improvements in traffic flow from Sainsburys. These plans do not look into Sainsbury's car park issues and this is one for the supermarket to consider.</p>

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8	Apr 26 2020 12:00 AM	Any update to the town is much needed and will be welcomed by many, the artist illustrations look very good fingers crossed on the proposed bid	
9	Apr 25 2020 10:24 PM	I think it all looks great. Good luck with the bid	
10	Apr 25 2020 05:15 PM	<p>Any area for sitting by the river should somehow try and discourage groups to sit around all day drinking, like the area near the toilets do at the moment.</p> <p>Also I don't think a zebra crossing on the Main Street will work as it would disrupt the flow of traffic in town too much.</p> <p>Not quite sure if included but there should be enough spaces provided for the buses to park without hindering the flow of traffic.</p>	<p>Once completed the area will be monitored as required.</p> <p>The current arrangement of traffic lights stops the traffic completely. Adding in the crossing is proven to work elsewhere.</p> <p>Bus parking is out of the flow of traffic.</p>
11	Apr 25 2020 05:13 PM	<p>March needs a McDonald's immediately!</p> <p>Also a little shopping centre would be nice like they have in Wisbech.</p>	
12	Apr 25 2020 04:50 PM	The proposed plans look great, all plans give a nice modern feel to the town and looks like the traffic can be managed better than it currently is	
13	Apr 25 2020 04:19 PM	Think that Broad Street should have traffic one way from Greggs to Lloyd's Bank. The reverse direction should be forced to turn left at Barclays (except Buses Only) and travel towards Wetherspoons. All buses should stop at March Railway Station. There should be stricter controls on the 7.5tonne limits. There should be a planning limit on charity shops, betting shops & vape shops.	Traffic modelling highlights that the planned scheme will improve current and future traffic flows. The impact of removing parking from Broad Street will have a positive impact, along with removal of parking on the Market Place.

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14	Apr 25 2020 03:58 PM	<p>The plans for the town are great and much needed. I do not believe the road layout will work though. We only have two bridges and there will be too much congestion. This idea has been around for a long time and all that has happened is an increase in traffic. This needs to be done in stages, create the business areas down acre road and make some of the improvements. This will hopefully bring business and more investment. Ideally we need a third bridge but this can't happen without a serious injection of money</p>	<p>Modelling indicates that the new traffic scheme will improve current and future traffic flows. It does, on first impression, appear counter-intuitive, but the constant flow of a roundabout, now traffic parking, pulling out, backing in and no stopping at traffic lights all influences the current, stop-start flow of traffic.</p>
15	Apr 25 2020 03:54 PM	<p>The town struggles for parking as it is. Removing the parking from the market place and the center of town will damage businesses.</p> <p>The only way this would work is if there is a guarantee of not charging for parking in City road car park. Staff will need to be able to park all day without having to pay.</p> <p>By the sounds of it there is no actual plan for the market place. A cafe culture won't just appear, the council would need to actively promote this and they would have a greater impact if they removed the ridiculously high business rates that the shops in the town centre suffer.</p> <p>The river bank needs a certain amount of cleaning up to make it usable in the town centre however it doesn't want to become a manicured space. That would completely ruin the look of a market town and it wouldn't fit with March.</p>	<p>Removing the parking will make the town a far better place to visit and is what the community have highlighted as required. There is plenty of available parking that is less than 5 minutes from the centre of town.</p> <p>Currently FDC does not charge for car parking.</p> <p>By having access to the Market Place without having to juggle car parking and opening and closing the space to cars, opportunities to create community events / pop up shops / re-vitalise our market will become possible. Promotion will be needed and it is anticipated that local partners would work together to make this vision work.</p> <p>The space where the public seating area is planned is a lost wasteland of poor quality trees behind a little used public toilet and shelter. This project plans to open up this space and improve it for all to use – March sits on a river and does not capitalise on this important town asset.</p>

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16	Apr 25 2020 12:23 PM	<p>I love the way the new town could look with a great use of space and our beautiful river.. the market place is lovely and would be great to be used as it was intended all the time for local talent</p> <p>Hopefully with these changes more shopping will come and service our town and people won't feel they need to shop outside of our market town...encourage local shopping again..</p> <p>Could the Acre space be turned into a mini shopping mall?</p>	<p>It is intended to keep the historic building in the Acre area encouraging a more art and cultural feel to this aspect of March. A shopping mall is not intended and would be unlikely to be financially viable in March.</p>
17	Apr 25 2020 11:14 AM	<p>Broad St looks like a great idea. Take back the road from the car and make it a place to go. Wonderful. Be nice to have the fountain where people can see it properly. I guess it can safely be moved because it has been moved before?</p> <p>Let's make the town centre a place to do business. Small businesses in the heart of the town to support the shops and market.</p>	
18	Apr 25 2020 11:12 AM	<p>One way system through the town centre would work better</p>	<p>The traffic modelling based on current and future population levels does not support this approach.</p>
19	Apr 24 2020 06:36 PM	<p>Looks exciting. Let's hope it can be delivered. The town desperately needs this investment</p>	
20	Apr 24 2020 04:08 PM	<p>The plans for Broad Street are ambitious and will likely see a lot of resistance from older generations, but the plans aren't for them, they're for their children. It does appear that over time our societies will move away from cars, so partially pedestrianising Broad Street is the way forward, however in</p>	

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		<p>terms of feasibility and benefit to the town I feel that this aspect of the plan should be low-priority.</p> <p>The plans for the Riverside transformation are great in theory, but in reality they could have unintended consequences. An area with lots of seating that is partially hidden from the main street could become a hot-spot for anti-social behaviour, much like the shelters and public toilets that currently occupy this location. The obvious solution to this would be to ensure that area is very well lit and to consider CCTV coverage.</p> <p>The plans for the Market Place seem to be the most feasible and, in terms of impact on our economy, could be the most efficient use of funding. Concerns about the loss of parking here are overstated as there is plenty of parking throughout the town. The idea of pop-up stalls and better markets however would require a lot of organisation and advertisement from the Council if they are to be successful.</p> <p>The information on Acre Road is quite vague at the moment, but it is space that is very much underutilised. While some may voice concerns regarding the loss of "historical character", I feel that these buildings are an eyesore and should be demolished. If these central locations are snapped up by the right company, the benefit to the town could be far greater than any of us could imagine.</p> <p>Overall, I think the proposed plans represent a positive direction for the town and wish you the best of luck in your bid for funding.</p>	<p>Thank you – we will ensure that the area is monitored appropriately once developed.</p> <p>The current plan is to keep the historic properties and refurbish them, as well as adding in modern buildings in this key town centre space. The mixed nature of the development should enhance the market town feel of March, whilst also indicating that the town is looking ot he future.</p>
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21	Apr 24 2020 02:20 PM	Would all be amazing apart from losing some car parking spaces from the market and centre of town	The town has plenty of car parking within a 5 minute walk of the town centre. Removing the market place and Briard Street parking will improve the space for pedestrians shopping, improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion in the area.
22	Apr 24 2020 09:11 AM	what about parking?	See comment 21
23	Apr 24 2020 06:35 AM	<p>In principle the proposals seem to have a lot of merit, although for the project to be successful the long term viability of new and existing town centre businesses will be essential. In a post-lockdown world this isn't necessarily going to be certain, particularly with the relentless rise in internet shopping. Many local businesses are already fragile and some are likely to shut their doors for good before the current emergency is over. To stimulate the local economy and to make it attractive for new shops etc to start up, business rates must be set at a realistic level.</p> <p>As a small market town in a rural area, March relies on people travelling in to the shops from outlying areas which requires adequate and free parking. However, from the drawings it appears that all of the current parking in Broad Street and Market Place will be lost. What plans are there for a suitable town centre car park to compensate for this?</p>	<p>There are several car parks within a 5 minute walk of the town centre that are available to all to use – at no cost.</p> <p>See comment 21.</p>
24	Apr 23 2020 01:51 PM	<p>There is some nice ideas in the drawings . However I think special plans should be made to ensure that any 106 money is spent in the town and not turned down becasue the builders wont make enough money as has happened with previous developments.</p> <p>I also think that officers should negotiate , before any building starts. Who owns and is responsible for the maintenance of</p>	

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		<p>street lighting .At the moment the lighting is jointly owned between Fenland and the County .</p> <p>Could I also suggest that regardless of what designer are chosen over the river side development That preliminary talks begin as soon as possible .</p> <p>As there appears to be several organisations involved with the ruining and protection of the river ,whom would benefit from clear guidance . Also the introduction of the removal of the permission to empty sewage into the river by some boat owners .</p> <p>Also wheelchair access to the river which is often over looked .</p> <p>Previously Ogdans yard/market /auction buildings was demolished. It was obvious that the roofs of the building where made of asbestos. During and after the demolition no signs , warning or protective clothing where used by the work force.</p> <p>Could I suggest that before any building takes place that the sight is checked and cleansed up correctly before building work starts. Hopefully no one has been contaminated , but only time will tell .</p> <p>please continue to keep the population informed in this exciting quest .</p>	<p>The draft design for the riverside plans will be accessible.</p> <p>Appropriate risk assessments and land assessments will be undertaken prior to development work.</p>
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25	Apr 22 2020 08:41 PM	<p>I do like the idea of regenerating the town and improving it's appearance and making areas more accessible. The semi-pedestrianisation is also welcome.</p> <p>I am a member of the March Society and on their committee as I care very much about the town where I was born and brought up. As such I am very concerned about the effect this regeneration may have on the current conservation area and the Acre Road cottages and other historical buildings which I feel could be restored and brought back into use as part of the regeneration process, thus retaining the town's character whilst improving it's overall appearance.</p> <p>I would like to suggest for example that the Electric Palace be restored and turned into a theatre/cinema which would be a great asset to the town and surrounding area.</p> <p>Also couldn't the Acre Road cottages be restored for housing instead of demolishment? I know that many March people think for these buildings to disappear would be a huge loss and a crying shame.</p> <p>It is imperative we get this right.</p>	<p>The current plan is to bring the Acre cottages back into use and retain and enhance this historic aspect to March that is currently run down and dilapidated.</p> <p>The project team assessed this option. It falls outside the affordability and benefit cost ratio requirements of the Future high Street Project.</p> <p>See above</p>
26	Apr 22 2020 08:28 PM	<p>Less barbers less Chartiy shops less take a ways more high street names clothes shops hardware shops since I moved here over 10 years I have notice the loss of good name shops we have over 8 take away shops in the high street why we have over 3 options good only knows as for estate agents march is a good town but we really can do without crap we need to bring in good family business and high street shopping</p>	<p>This project will enhance the centre of March and should encourage a diverse, viable economy, including the development of a more vibrant night time economy.</p>
27	Apr 22 2020 05:27 PM	<p>Sounds great, I wish you luck with your proposals.</p>	

Figure 1.2

28	Apr 22 2020 01:09 PM	We have only moved to March 1 year ago. It would nice to see more different shops in high street and see market square made larger with more stall holders like some other towns have.	See 26.  The changes to the Market Place will give market stall holders the opportunity to enhance their offer, attract in more stalls and breathe life back into March's market.
29	Apr 22 2020 12:33 PM	Please do not take away the History of this Town and turn it into one of these characterless modern monstrosities . Clean nice and fresh with and easier pedestrian access but please please keep its character I came from Hampshire 21 years ago and the local council have killed the heart of the area by demolishing historical buildings and building huge complexes taking away all of the original character and history of the area. Please do not do this to March.	This project will enhance the town for people, not traffic.  This includes making our historic fountain accessible, where it is currently surrounded by traffic.  The project is all about making the town more attractive to people, thereby ensuring that businesses are more economically viable, giving March a rosy future as a thriving market town.
30	Apr 21 2020 10:28 PM	Reducing or preferably removing traffic would be a great improvement to the high street. Encouraging café culture and market events is a great idea. If you could include a theater/ cinema it would go down well. I like the ideas of making the river a feature but usage of these ideas requires the stopping of queued traffic and fumes from these areas.	
31	Apr 21 2020 08:23 PM	Good luck, with the bid, we need to bring the Town back to life, we have a good community spirit and we could improve on this, with the Town becoming the beating heart of our community	
32	Apr 21 2020 07:01 PM	Please don't knock down old buildings and replace with ugly new concrete ones. Incentivise builders to renovate and improve old buildings to keep the history of the town	This project is not intending to remove buildings at all.
33	Apr 21 2020 04:10 PM	liking all the proposed plans, so long as there's still allowance for disabled parking.	There will be disabled parking provision in Broad Street, on the Market Plan and in other areas of the town.

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34	Apr 21 2020 11:08 AM	Without a eastern bypass to ease the traffic in march it'll be a waste of money . Under lockdown the air quality in town is so much better so that should be a pointer at what should be done first .clear the traffic.	Traffic modelling based on current and future levels indicates that this approach will improve traffic flows in the town, thereby improving air quality.  Removing parking on Broad Street will further improve traffic levels and air quality levels.
35	Apr 21 2020 11:02 AM	The draft plans look amazing. Firstly I would like to say that I usually shop in Wisbech town because of the variety of shops that we don't have in March; Savers, QD, Poundland, Shoezone, The Works, Card Factory, Peacocks, New Look.  March doesn't really offer many shops and most of the smaller retailers are now closed. March has too many charity shops and why do we have 2 opticians?  Too many beauty and nails shops as well.  March is not somewhere that I would visit if I didn't live here as there isn't much to offer.  Maybe a retail park with bigger shops to try and entice people in.  Secondly it would be lovely to walk or sit along the river instead of looking at people's overgrown and scruffy gardens that lead down to the river which spoils the views.  I very much look forward to a new revitalised town.	
36	Apr 20 2020 09:43 PM	Some fantastic ideas, hoping it all goes through!	
37	Apr 20 2020 08:12 PM	I don't like what you wan to do by the riverside , all it will end up being is a ash tray with ber bottles trwen across it. even when you put benches in they get destroyed . maybe just have some seating that his friendly towards those that need to sit the elderly and families. and not just an amphitheatre for youths to	The riverside area will be monitored appropriately once it had been developed. Being an open and very public area, it is less likely to attract people to hang around.

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		congregate and intimidate people walking along the riverside. apart from that all the other ideas look good for march I hope that you will green it up with some small trees. and maybe even some fruit trees like in Wisbech park with the community orchard that the community can pick, and schools can visit and learn about nature in their town. keep up the good work	
38	Apr 20 2020 08:08 PM	It sounds nice but what plans do you have for Whittlesey? Why is it always March and Wisbech? We can't even get to Peterborough without queues. Lots of empty shops, no larger stores, no supermarkets. Please look at Whittlesey first.	Whittlesey has a town plan, developed as part of the Growing Fenland work. Proposals will be considered in 2020.
39	Apr 20 2020 06:01 PM	Really like the idea of the two way traffic on one side of the high street and having the other side pedestrianised and making more of the river.	
40	Apr 20 2020 05:42 PM	I've read through your propose draft and it's very exciting particularly for our visitors and future generations! Acre Road is a perfect location to establish various art and craft centres plus some workshops for our visitors and local residents to learn, share and develop skills eg: pottery, sewing, cooking groups and chess boards could be made available by making concrete table boards which would encourage people to play and communicate with each other. Also it would be lovely to have a cafe in the park by the riverside which also catered for families pet dogs! That would be fabulous. Keep up the good work	
41	Apr 20 2020 05:11 PM	Some great ideas. Would like similar investment in the infrastructure and facilities in Whittlesey! When can we expect to see those proposals, please?  Please make all of these areas and the shops/cafes entrances and exits more accessible to disabled wheelchair users. Please provide smooth dropped kerbs, and blue badge parking spaces surrounding the pedestrianised area. More needs to be done to ensure affordable housing for homeless people, the elderly of our community who are unable to negotiate steps or stairs, and youngsters needing first homes.	Whittlesey has a town plan, developed as part of the Growing Fenland work. Proposals will be considered in 2020.

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42	Apr 20 2020 05:02 PM	<p>I think, while worthy, cutting the traffic capacity through Broad Street will cause massive queues - either through town or around the edge. There are already long queues through the centre now and that is with an extra lane. This becomes almost gridlocked when capacity is reduced. Has modelling been done on the roundabout on safety and flow?</p> <p>I think the steps to the riverside serve no purpose and will not encourage people to go sit unless it is much greener.</p> <p>The changes to the market might work but incentives are needed to create the cafe culture or pop up markets. Currently the regular market is very small.</p> <p>I agree that the acre area is under utilised and should be transformed.</p>	<p>Traffic modelling indicates significantly improved traffic flow through Broad Street.</p> <p>The river is a key asset of the town. Enhancing that asset should encourage more people to visit the town, spend time here and spend money locally.</p> <p>Local partners will work together to develop business and opportunities on the newly modelled Market Place.</p>
43	Apr 20 2020 02:45 PM	Wow. Would make March a really great place to live.	
44	Apr 20 2020 02:05 PM	<p>Will extra short term car parking be provided to offset the loss of spaces in Broad Street?</p> <p>The traffic flow plan is much improved and gives opportunity for the proposed amenity area. If no funds are available for buildings on the acre road site it could be used initially for extra parking.</p>	There is already plenty of car parking available within a 5 minute walk of Broad Street.
45	Apr 20 2020 10:37 AM	This will kill off the town completly, Who will go into broad street on a cold winters day, not shoppers that can't use their cars. Very pretty ,but not practical	<p>See comment 44.</p> <p>Parking is very limited on Broad Street; removing this parking will improve the pedestrian space in Broad Street,</p>

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			<p>add opportunities for pop up businesses and community events, improve traffic flow, improve air quality.</p> <p>Additional parking is available that is a 5 minute walk away.</p>
46	Apr 20 2020 08:33 AM	Pedestrianising Broad Street is a great idea. Agree with the ideas.	
47	Apr 19 2020 11:58 PM	<p>I love that there are more sociable seating areas planned,especially near the river. Will there be additional parking elsewhere once the parking on Broad St and the market area have been developed into social seating spaces ? Will parking still be free? Will paths be short distanced and easy to push a wheelchair on from the parking areas ?</p> <p>It would be great to see ,when it comes to landscaping / planting, the use of edible plants ( fruit trees ), or perhaps an area of community edible planting .</p> <p>Could FDC encourage those that have small business / hobbies ( crafting , gardeners etc) to have their own market day .....heavily subsidized for those who live within the area ?</p> <p>I hope the town maintains its quaint old fashioned feel,it's slow pace and friendliness .</p> <p>And then perhaps looks at the High St in Doddington ,which is so heavy with traffic that houses shake as lorries and farming vehicles go by, creating noise,dirt and pollution for those living there ( people who are at home all day due to caring for ill loved ones ,there's no escape from it ).</p> <p>Thankyou &amp; good luck with the bidding :)</p>	<p>Parking is currently free in FDC car parks.</p> <p>Additional parking is available a 5 minute walk away.</p>
48	Apr 19 2020 10:43 PM	Leave March town as it	<p>Unfortunately it is clear from economic evidence that March is declining and needs support to ensure that it can become a sustainable, vibrant market town that is fit for the</p>

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		Seriously do not change it as the place is perfect as it is so save the money for better projects in the future	future, supporting current businesses and attracting new businesses into the town and wider area.
49	Apr 19 2020 07:53 PM	Yes I think it sounds great	
50	Apr 19 2020 06:27 PM	<p>The riverside development would visually improve the centre amazingly.</p> <p>All ideas are an improvement on existing. Acre rd. eyesore long overdue to be sorted as currently a huge waste .Permanently empty premises need to be converted to housing, not charity shops.</p> <p>Pedestrianisation of centre long overdue. Any thought given to emergency services though?</p> <p>No mention of a much needed by pass creek rd. Side. None of this will ease congestion without one now, let alone twenty years on with the proposed housing which we will have forced on us by government even though we are largely gridlocked a lot of the time .This is the crucial issue and cannot be put off any longer. Why not knock palace hall down (before it falls down), an ideal place for the bus stops ,taxis, some disabled parking, this would improve traffic flow through the centre as parked and stopping buses will just cause congestion and pollution in the pedestrianised area, just some ideas for thought.</p>	<p>The centre retains a single lane of traffic North and South that would be suitable for emergency vehicles.</p> <p>This is being considered as part of a broader March Area Transport Study.</p>
51	Apr 19 2020 06:05 PM	<p>Critical analysis of these plans: March does need regeneration but this is simply not the answer. Most of the plans outlined in this document are absolutely absurd and I hope FDC comes up with something better than this shambles.</p>	<p>The packages outlined are tried and tested in other locations and have been developed following community feedback, as well as support from urban design specialists.</p>

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52	Apr 19 2020 05:57 PM	<p>Keep Broadstreet as it is, otherwise you will destroy the town.</p> <p>Stop people parking outside the shops in the town centre, too many people park in the bus stops. Make the pavements wider &amp; get rid of the laybys.</p> <p>Stop people parking on double yellows, particularly as approaching the bridge, the display of a blue badge does not make it legal as parking here is opposite a junction &amp; causes the road to be narrowed &amp; obstructed, which is what a blue badge says you are not allowed to do. Enforce parking.</p> <p>Fine with the market place charges but why not use the acre road area to extend city road parking to make up for the loss of parking on the market place.</p> <p>You won't encourage more businesses as you can't encourage people to shop but make the parking available.</p> <p>Also encourage walking into town, far too many people drive &amp; park right outside where they want to be whether parking there or not.</p>	<p>This is precisely what is planned.</p> <p>FDC is considering parking and parking enforcement as part of a future piece of work.</p> <p>The Acre Road space has much potential, if development in this area can be supported. A car park will not add to the economy or attraction of March as a significant improvement in the Acre Road area would.</p> <p>Parking is available 5 minutes from the town centre.</p> <p>This project addresses precisely this issue.</p>
53	Apr 19 2020 05:56 PM	<p>That roundabout is a stupid idea! March people don't use the other roundabouts properly or simply don't know how to use one. I can see that becoming an accident hot spot.</p> <p>I don't see how it will reduced traffic problems. It looks like it will make things worse.</p>	<p>Broad Street is already an accident hot spot. This redesign will improve traffic flows in the area.</p> <p>Modelling demonstrates improved traffic flows both now and in the future.</p>

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		<p>I think we already have enough space for people walking.</p> <p>How about improving what we already have? Instead of redesigning the town centre.</p>	<p>The project is all about improving what is currently in place. Broad Street is a traffic-centric space that is not shopper, bike or pedestrian friendly.</p>
54	Apr 19 2020 11:55 AM	<p>Excellent idea about time march had some investment makes a refreshing change to hearing about what waterlees in wisbech had spent on it</p> <p>Good on fdc putting investment where its needed in march town</p>	
55	Apr 19 2020 11:15 AM	<p>Broad Street; double road lanes would be better on West side creating more pedestrian space on East. The East is the busier side so more people would have to cross traffic in proposal to get to pedestrian area. Like West side businesses on East have rear access for services so service access on frontage is not required.</p> <p>Riverside; like, but replacement needed for public lavatories and boat services (few available on river). Also, suggest no moorings at that point (apart for boat service) and no boat or personal water sport slip to river.</p> <p>Market Place, Acre Road, etc ; agree</p>	<p>The proposal is such that the riverside enhancements fit with the improved public access in Broad Street.</p> <p>Toilet and pump out facilities will be considered as the plans develop.</p>
56	Apr 19 2020 10:25 AM	<p>A roundabout with 3 zebra crossings will result in accidents and congestion as it will be controlled by foot fall or traffic lights (same as now). If it is going ahead put the pedestrian walk area on other side where the most used shops are. Loss of 30 minute drop in parking may well result in less passing trade as it becomes easier to go elsewhere.</p> <p>The only way to change traffic is a 2nd crossing or make it so inconvenient for cars they don't bother (then we have the foot</p>	<p>Any traffic changes will be risk assessed accordingly.</p> <p>See 55 above.</p>

Figure 1.2

		<p>fall issue). Free car parking essential but leave an option to keep parking on market place if the market fails to take off.</p> <p>Opening the riverside is good but supplement with a cafe to encourage usage (maybe attached to library which may encourage use of this town asset.</p> <p>Consider sorting Acre out and restore open access back to Station Road carpark as making people walk round does little to increase trade but encourages people to drive through town rather than a quick walk.</p>	<p>The riverside improvement may generate an additional café business close by in the Town Centre.</p> <p>Acre development form part of this project.</p> <p>Enhanced foot links between car parks form part of this work.</p>
57	Apr 19 2020 10:18 AM	<p>This all looks like massive improvements for those living in the March area. The problems caused by rapidly increasing volumes of traffic through High St/March Broad St. first needs sorting though. If an Eastern by-pass is not viable and if the traffic volumes/congestion are mainly caused by commuters from the West March /Chatteris areas travelling to Peterborough via the A141 &amp; A47 (a bit like a mini M25) then the obvious solution seems to be a new North/North West road from the Chatteris area to Peterborough (or, alternatively, improving the inferior Pondersbridge/Ramsey Forty Foot/Chatteris Roads to A road standards).</p>	<p>This falls outside the High Streets Fund remit.</p>
58	Apr 19 2020 10:13 AM	<p>I agree with it all. Looks great</p>	
59	Apr 19 2020 09:49 AM	<p>I think all proposed plans are well thought out and important changes that March needs. I just hope we can get the market place thriving and encourage more variety in the type of shops in the high street.</p>	

Figure 1.2

60	Apr 19 2020 08:25 AM	Very impressive, would require strict traffic control with only single file traffic in Broad SStreet.	
61	Apr 19 2020 01:38 AM	LOOKS AWFUL!  I SWEAR SOMONE ON THE COUNCIL HAS GOT AN OBSSESION WITH ROUNDABOUTS!  I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT LEAVING MARCH, I MIGHT ACTUALLY DO IT, IF YOU DO THAT TO TOWN!	Traffic modelling indicates that this approach will improve current and future traffic flows.  Indeed, this approach was not initially considered, but once modelled indicated considerable improvements for traffic.
62	Apr 19 2020 12:13 AM	It all looks great! Good luck with the grant	
63	Apr 18 2020 09:11 PM	It's about time the town was regenerated and I am all for it	
64	Apr 18 2020 09:02 PM	Single lanes for traffic in what is already a bottleneck is dangerous unless you are going to add another river crossing for emergency vehicles.  Yes the river is massively underutilised but there need to be places that you can sit and enjoy a cuppa whilst watching nature all year around. Not everyone can manage all those steps down to enjoy the river.  March is a busy country town not somewhere that people tend to sit around for a long time.	See comment 61.  The riverside space will be accessible for all.  As a traffic-centric space it is not surprising that people do not enjoy March. These packages enhance the town considerably and people should spend more time in town, enhancing the whole economy of the town. This virtuous circle will attract other businesses ... that will encourage more people ... that will encourage more businesses.

Figure 1.2

65	Apr 18 2020 08:28 PM	We support these plans and think they will regenerate March	
66	Apr 18 2020 08:17 PM	I think the ideas are good but to be truly effective and to fulfil their potential we need another bridge across the Nene for cars.	This would be outside the remit of the High Street Fund.
67	Apr 18 2020 07:27 PM	<p>Broad Street plan: Excellent idea. Currently the town centre is predominantly roads with very little areas for people to enjoy the space or socialise. The current proposal would enable this. It definitely needs more areas for people to sit and chat outside. I assume the pathways will be wide enough and manouverable with a pushchair or wheelchair.</p> <p>Riverside plan: Excellent idea. Really like this. We really need to make more of the river. I would like to suggest a 'picnic' area where there are picnic tables, benches and a large area of grass for people to picnic by the river too. It would be lovely to make this a nice relaxing place for everyone. Please ensure it is also accessible for pushchairs/wheelchairs as well as the steps. Perhaps consider children - a small area of playground?</p> <p>Market place: Excellent idea. This space is currently wasted. I agree it should have a cafe culture and outdoor seating. I think it needs more tables and chairs for people to sit and enjoy coffee and chat. More of an italian vibe of lots of tables and chairs with umbrellas. It should be a sociable space for people to meet for coffee and a chat.</p> <p>Acre road: Agree. It is good to improve the more run down areas of march to be more attractive and more useful to the town</p> <p>As a slightly seperate suggestion. I work in cambridge nannying for small children and two of the best things there for children is Llamas Land (summer outdoor pool) and Coleridge road splash park. I really think it would be so lovely to have a childrens pool and splash park like this in March for the children, as we have</p>	<p>It certainly would have much more space for people, including push chair or wheelchair users.</p> <p>Indeed, the space would be fully accessible, however a play area would not be viable in this space.</p>

Figure 1.2

		so many children here. Perhaps in west end park?	This is outside the remit of the High Street Fund, but thank you for the suggestion.
68	Apr 18 2020 07:04 PM	<p>There seems to be little, if any detail to the proposals, especially concerning the demands on the already strained infrastructure, surrounding the and including the town.</p> <p>The proposal on the acre road site contains no details as to how access will be gained and what the area will be used for. Given the high levels of existing developments and redevelopments that are as yet unfinished and over schedule in the town and surrounding area, would it no make sense to wait until these are actually completed and promises surrounding these delivers upon, until an extensive redevelopment of the town centre takes place.</p>	<p>Traffic modelling has been undertaken, highlighting that these changes will improve traffic flows both now and in the future.</p> <p>This proposal is an extensive redevelopment of the town centre – with a once in a generation opportunity to improve and develop the Acre Road area.</p>
69	Apr 18 2020 06:43 PM	<p>Very good but I fear the proposed broad street plans would back the traffic back up and make it even more difficult to turn right from the market place towards broad street.</p> <p>Market place junction will still remain the problem it is today.</p>	<p>See comment 68 re traffic.</p> <p>Reduced traffic in this area due to the market place being pedestrianised will improve traffic flows at this junction.</p>
70	Apr 18 2020 05:25 PM	I welcome the opportunity for improvements to March town centre. The proposals that we have been asked to comment on look very simialr to the ones put forward by Cambridgeshire County Council back in 2013. These were rejected by people of the town, so I am curious on how the District Council intends to	Responses from key authorities, as well the community in this consultation and the previous Growing Fenland consultation are positive regarding the improvements. It is critical that March is successful with this project otherwise the town will continue to decline.

Figure 1.2

		<p>overcome similar objections this time?</p> <p>Overall, I think the proposals could enhance the look and feel of March Town Centre. I look forward to hearing more details about the proposals as they are developed.</p>	
71	Apr 18 2020 05:10 PM	I think it would be good to make Broad St pedestrianised area & use Greys Lane as the traffic area. I also think the market needs to be encouraged and brought back to the market it used to be.	
72	Apr 18 2020 05:06 PM	Looks good but what about traffic while all the work is being done?	Traffic management will be considered and put in place. This would be much the same for any road works and whilst frustrating for road users for a period of time, will be beneficial in the short term.
73	Apr 18 2020 05:00 PM	Love the idea of improving the riverside. Such a beautiful area that could be enjoyed so much more. I think it would make the town seem more desirable and in turn boost business.	
74	Apr 18 2020 03:42 PM	These are great ideas, the only reservation is you must keep the old character of the town especially Acre Road development, no tall glass buildings please.	Improvement of Acre Road is planned, with the dilapidated buildings being brought back into use.
75	Apr 18 2020 03:00 PM	There is so much I enjoy about March and so much I dislike. Love the flowers and river. Dislike chain pubs selling cheap microwave grub and all the greasy spoon cafes. Costa is filthy and rundown. Dislike all the rundown charity shops, put them all together in a covered shopping market. So, better food and drink options, pop up BBQs and coffee shops, farm to fork options, local breweries. Beautiful river walks, railway rambles and cycle paths to nearby villages. Wide flat pavements to walk and run on, so people can pass each other. Open green spaces, properly maintained safe parks, like in Disney films. With pitch and putt and an aviary, boating pond, paddling pool. Local produce markets, fish, meats and seasonal vegetables.	

Figure 1.2

76	Apr 18 2020 01:49 PM	<p>I would welcome more pedestrian areas in Broad Street but I feel that the proposed road should be on the left hand side because there is more natural footfall on the right (link to Sainsbury's and high street type shops, etc).</p> <p>It may help with the ease of traffic if a roundabout was proposed with the fountain being the centrepiece; the public don't want to see the fountain moved but I don't think they wouldn't mind if it only moved a couple of metres to accommodate it.</p> <p>The market place doesn't seem to work where it is, it's not really part of the main thoroughfare. It should be returned to Broad Street. The market place lends itself to a landscaped seating and eating area, especially as it's just a short walk to the park and river across the road.</p> <p>I would also welcome there being more viewing accessibility to the river within the town, however I feel that the toilets should stay; it's an attractive building (there just should be more privacy for patrons using them).</p> <p>None of the proposals should be at the cost of any listed buildings or attractive buildings within the conservation area.</p> <p>The proposals shown are not very clear so it's not easy to comment on it.</p>	<p>The pedestrianisation fits with the Riverside enhancements – both flow together.</p> <p>The fountain is moving a few metres – and will be considerably enhanced by improving access to this heritage asset instead of surrounding it with traffic.</p> <p>The pedestrianisation of the market place will enhance community events, the market itself and encourage pop up shops and generally improve the sociability of the town.</p> <p>The toilets will be removed to open up the river area; opening up the river and keeping the toilets are not possible together – this has been considered and rejected as unfeasible.</p> <p>This project does not intent to remove buildings other than the toilet block and the shelter close to the river.</p>
77	Apr 18 2020 01:34 PM	<p>It would be better with the pedestrianisation on the other side closer to the main shops. Where are Disabled people going to park.</p> <p>The town still needs toilets.</p>	<p>Broad Street pedestrianised area links to the Riverside package. Parking for disabled people will be available in Broad Street, as well as the market place.</p> <p>Toilet provision will be assessed as the project develops.</p>

Figure 1.2

		With the reduction of parking in the town centre where will people park	There are many car parking spaces within a 5 minute walk of the town centre.
78	Apr 18 2020 01:33 PM	The pedestrianised area on Broad Street would be fantastic, especially for existing businesses, it would encourage more shopping as stores would have more opportunities to entice public, hope for this to happen, would be brilliant.	
79	Apr 18 2020 11:37 AM	Love these new designs, especially the river and broad street. Not sure the artist impression of the market square is very clear. But as a Europeans I'd definitely welcome more outdoors cafe culture. As a cyclist non-car owner I love the reduced traffic, though do worry that drivers will moan about losing parking space. Perhaps the Acre site could somehow accommodate this?	
80	Apr 18 2020 10:47 AM	I like it. I think it has been well thought out. I think I missed the bit about where the cars will park. If March becomes more of a draw, where will we park? Very excited to see this actualised as the town definitely needs investment. Well done and good luck.	
81	Apr 18 2020 10:35 AM	More National Chain shops/restaurants are needed. These will attract people to the town who may then spend money in the more local stores	
82	Apr 18 2020 10:34 AM	I like these plans a lot. It would mean losing parking in the market place and this means that the limited disabled parking would be worse. The disabled bays by the library are frequently taken up by non disabled people and this needs addressing.  More disabled parking please.	A regarding parking enforcement planned.  Parking for disabled people will be available in Broad Street, as well as the market place.
83	Apr 18 2020 10:18 AM	Looks good to me.	

Figure 1.2

84	Apr 18 2020 09:41 AM	<p>These plans look good, but there will be even more congestion on Broad St</p> <p>Is there a way to put 1 way traffic down Grays Lane and then only 1 lane would be needed in Broad St coming the other way.</p>	<p>Traffic modelling indicates significantly improved traffic flows both now and in the future.</p> <p>This was considered and modelling indicates that it is not viable.</p>
85	Apr 18 2020 08:51 AM	<p>Agree with the riverside and market square plans but not the high st</p> <p>I do not believe this is a priority and will change the character of the town in a detrimental way</p> <p>Was hoping to see redevelopment of the top of town where the nativity scene is placed and more housing infill</p>	<p>This building was considered and the cost of any improvement meant that it was not viable to include within the High Street Project.</p>
86	Apr 18 2020 08:01 AM	<p>The types of shops make a big difference to the use of the high street. March town centre is saturated with low end shops and multiple service types (e.g opticians, vape, beauty). Restricting usage to only specific types of shops will drive different behaviour and usage. In addition, many fascia boards are in poor condition or not in keeping with March high street. Insisting shop owners have fascia boards that are sympathetic to the overall aesthetic would make the high street more cohesive. For example, mallets &amp; coleys use colours from a muted colour pallet as well as signage that comes out from the fascia panel itself. Boots also has this traditional looking signage coming out of the main fascia. This gives a higher end appearance to the high street and will help (along with the right shops in situ) to bring people into the town.</p> <p>Market place - removing the car park here and the changes</p>	<p>The project includes a vacant shops activation element that should bring more spaces into use – this will enhance the overall look and feel of the Town Centre.</p>

Figure 1.2

		<p>proposed to the high street itself means no parking anywhere. The market doesn't get used now because the big supermarkets have monopoly over this now. But, even if a market were to be able to operate successfully one or 2 days, removing the car park would surely just create additional issues?</p> <p>Will reducing the high street traffic from 2 lanes into one just add to traffic? Currently, at peak times, the traffic through this area is vast and definitely worth further consideration.</p>	<p>There is substantial parking within a 5 minute walk of the town centre.</p> <p>Traffic modelling indicates that this plan will improve traffic flow now and in the future.</p>
87	Apr 18 2020 07:47 AM	<p>I like the overall design but taking away car park spaces close to shops defeats the objective of creating a vibrant high street. Without the ability to conveniently pop into shops there will be even fewer shops as people will go to edge of town sites with easy parking.</p> <p>I also think the link to grays lane from broad street should still be there</p>	<p>There are car parks just 5 minutes' walk from the town centre and the plans include enhancing the access from these car parks to Broad Street.</p> <p>This link remains within the plans.</p>
88	Apr 18 2020 07:14 AM	<p>Vast improvements but not enough. Through traffic needs to be eliminated, leaving the river crossing open only to buses, taxis, pedestrians and cyclists. It can be done leaving all areas accessible either from the North or the South. The question is, why not?</p>	<p>Changes to the car parking, the enhancement of the public realm and the traffic flow will support a smooth flow of traffic.</p> <p>Eliminating traffic from the town centre is beyond the remit of this project and is likely to be achieved only through an additional bridge close to town.</p>

Figure 1.2

89	Apr 17 2020 11:03 PM	Independent shops to be encouraged maybe with lower rates into the high street	
90	Apr 17 2020 10:14 PM	<p>Exciting and good luck with the bid I would say having the pedestrianised side of street is good but the banks dominate that side which doesn't bode well for shopping and browsing if you have to cross traffic to get to the better shops. Love having the market place closed to traffic completely with permanent market stalls hopefully creating a better shopping experience in the whole great plans.</p> <p>Would like to see the cottages in acre road restored though as part of Riverside regeneration perhaps with cobble Street as a march historic site of interest in addition to the museum.</p>	
91	Apr 17 2020 09:46 PM	Would like to see more use made of the river, maybe tea shops, seasonal stalls where people could stop for refreshments/snacks/ice creams and seating areas. Market revival. Attract variety of shops, particularly clothing and furniture.	
92	Apr 17 2020 08:45 PM	<p>Amazing draft drawings and proposals, more space in the town centre for Christmas lights etc. Hopefully this will entice a better selection of shops to open, currently we have lots of empty shops and charity shops but also help shops which are currently there to improve where they need to.</p> <p>Not a big fan of the old bus shelter where the drunks gather and the toilets which I don't think are much used. I think the trees need trimming back down past the library along the river as it is quite imposing and I often see lots of rats.</p> <p>A general rejuvenation of paint and shop fronts would make it look cleaner and more inviting. When you walk down the side of</p>	

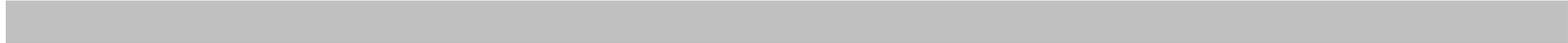
Figure 1.2

		<p>the estate agents, I often think it looks grim until you reach the new bit near greetings.</p> <p>We have also spoke about the state that 'George's' currently looks, not sure what's happening there? An eyesore before you even reach town centre.</p> <p>I think the proposals really look great but let's not forget about all the other areas which need bringing up to date too. Lots of work but much needed. Fingers crossed x</p>	
93	Apr 17 2020 08:20 PM	<p>I agree with all I have read. Certainly need a good selection of shops. The market should only be one day per week. Wednesday only has 2 stalls the whole parking area is closed for 2 stalls. More cafes with seats spilling onto the pavement would be fantastic.</p> <p>A monthly Farmer's market and maybe a French Market would be excellent.</p>	
94	Apr 17 2020 08:15 PM	Please do not pedestrianise Broad Street! We just need another bypass!	This plan does not pedestrianise Broad Street – it does improve traffic flow though.
95	Apr 17 2020 07:53 PM	These plans look great. I think we need to enhance what we have got, and stop places where drunks congregate.	
96	Apr 17 2020 07:42 PM	I'm in full support of any changes that can be made to improve the town centre, I especially like the market place and broad street area as I think it would attract more business to the town.	
97	Apr 17 2020 07:00 PM	<p>Acre Road is a gateway to the town from the City Road car park so needs to be a priority</p> <p>The idea of having various open public spaces is lovely but has the potential to attract groups/trouble so may require policing which obviously have an impact on an already stretched resource</p>	

Figure 1.2

98	Apr 17 2020 06:52 PM	<p>We have recently moved here from near Huntingdon and love the free parking and that March is thriving as a town centre.</p> <p>The one thing we have felt is that more could be made of the river and that the traffic is a bit of a nuisance. We like that there are lots of independent shops and would not want these to be lost if the town was changed.</p>	<p>This projects is expected to tackle all of your points; less traffic, enhance the river and encourage more shops with a town economy that is enhanced, not declining.</p>
99	Apr 17 2020 06:00 PM	Reasonable prices clothing stores and shoe shop.	
100	Apr 17 2020 05:41 PM	In my opinion it looks great. Any old buildings being brought back into use can only be a good thing. More variety to shops would be better though. Too many estate agents and cafes and take aways.	
101	Apr 17 2020 12:05 PM	<p>I think the options look great and it is high time investment was made in Fenland.</p> <p>I do like Broad Street as I have lived here for many years so it 'home' to me but I think shifting the focus from the traffic to the pedestrians is a great idea. If you can do this without causing traffic problems (as there is only river crossing after all) then I am all for it.</p> <p>The river in March is so lovely it will be great to see this really made into a feature.</p> <p>I really hope you get the funding needed to deliver this and that these plans continue longer term to improve the town centre - encourage business growth, use of facilities, health and well being etc.</p>	

Figure 1.2



102	Apr 17 2020 10:50 AM	<p>This looks like a real opportunity to transform March. I love the riverside and the really positive change that will happen in Broad Street. This will breathe life back into the town!</p> <p>Acre road needs the work and that will only add an extra dimension to March, with more businesses and a much tidier and well kept area.</p> <p>Finally - the market place. This will be brilliant for local community events, as well as encouraging our community to get into the market to make it more vibrant and attract more stalls back.</p>	
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Figure 1.2