



# LET'S KEEP THE (R COSTINGS) ABBEY HABIT



Most fans have welcomed the news that Cambridge United's future may well lie at their

current home on Newmarket Road. Additionally, Grosvenor are suggesting reviving a ten year old plan (for which planning permission still exists) to rebuild the North Stand, possibly incorporating new club offices, the club shop and the Supporters' Club as well as an increased (and seated ) capacity.

It seems clear that Grosvenor would hope to build two hundred houses and a velodrome in



Trumpington – which might well appeal to residents rather more than a football stadium. It seems reasonable to expect Grosvenor to want something for their investment and it seems very clear that the argument for a Sports Village, wherever it might be sited in Cambridge, is overwhelming.



For the club, and the vast majority of its fan base, the opportunity to stay at its spiritual home, and to improve it, seems almost too good to be true. An early Christmas present to go with the team's superb performance this season.

An extensive survey of the Amber Nation revealed, not surprisingly, that many fans are very excited at the prospect of a much improved ground in its current location. Councillor Gary Stroud of Haverhill commented:



“The Abbey will ALWAYS be our ancestral home. The ties are so strong that if I had the choice of a redeveloped Abbey or a purpose built stadium elsewhere then it would always be the Abbey every time. Plus, it is my wish for my ashes to be scattered there so I would prefer it if we were still playing there rather than spending eternity in someone's back garden.”

Many others have talked about the important place the Abbey Stadium has in their lives. Journalist Paul Stephen, currently working in Cheshire, adds:

I am delighted that Grosvenor have made it possible for future generations of fans to watch their team play at the Abbey Stadium. It was where I first watched football and the ground, and Cambridge United, are in my heart. I'm sure most of our fans will feel the same.”



Teacher Craig Patterson, based in Nottinghamshire, is more pragmatic claiming that:

“Sentiment shouldn't stand in the way when it comes to running a football club.”

Adding that:

“If the Club get promoted, and Grosvenor are happy to build us a new stand, staying put would be by far the best plan.”

Gareth Winter, of Cambridge, fears that:

“Moving to a new stadium could mean losing our identity. The Abbey is our home and we should stay in it for as long as we can.”



Will Weston, and his dad, Andy, who travel from Edinburgh and Leeds respectively, speak with one voice:

“We always wanted the new North Stand as planned over ten years ago. Tradition is vital to football clubs. They are part of the community they belong to and should never be moved out of it.”

I felt much the same at Barnet when I realised that their new ground is six miles from Barnet. How many long term fans might not make that journey?

Chris Vessey of the Yorkshire U's adds:

“I'd love to stay at the Abbey, a proper ground with tradition and history and not a soulless, out of town new build. We're all praying that the Trumpington velodrome project goes through and that the dream of staying where we are comes true.”



Brothers Richard and Mark Stephen and their friends in the Habbin don't want to give up the viewpoint they've had for years:



“This was our ground in our glory years in the League and it will be again.”



Cambridge United belong in Barnwell and Barnwell needs our club. A modernised ground will encourage growth and economic growth in an area which has become run down.

Do all you can to bring this proposal about. Tell CFU what you think, write to the Club and write to our Council.



**Make a difference – join CFU!**

