

**FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL ARMS**



**Heraldic Description:**

**ARMS:** *Per fess Or and Sable in chief six Palets Azure and in base five Palets Or.*

**CREST:** *Within a Mural Crown Or an Ancient Ship with three Masts Sable sails set Or the Mainsail emblazoned with the Arms; Mantled parted Azure and Sable doubled Or.*

**SUPPORTERS:** *On either side a Bengal Tiger proper each gorged with a Coronet and resting the interior hindpaw on a Garb fesswise ears inward Or.*

**BADGE:** *A Sixfoil Argent each pair of leaves ensigned by a Coronet Or.*

Granted 30th December 1977.

*The Fenland District was formed by the amalgamation of the Borough of Wisbech, the Chatteris Urban District, the March Urban District, the Whittlesey Urban District, the North Witchford Rural District and the Wisbech Rural District.*

**Explanation of Imagery:**

The six blue bands represent both the six constituent local authorities which were amalgamated to form Fenland District and the many water-courses which criss-cross the Fens. The gold bands reflect the richness of the Fens and this symbolism is continued in the lower half of the shield which is divided into six black and five gold vertical bands. The black bands represent the rich black silt soil of the Fens.

The ship represents to the ancient but still thriving Port of Wisbech. The golden mural crown is symbolic of Wisbech Castle and the history of the District as a whole.

The supporters represent the "*Fen Tigers*", which was the name applied to the Fen inhabitants by Dutch drainage engineers who came to the Fens in the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to construct the drains which resulted in considerable land reclamation and flood prevention. The local inhabitants displayed a considerable and lasting hostility to the Dutch engineers and the name "*Fen Tigers*" has resulted from that confrontation. The wheatsheaves are a final reflection to the agricultural treasures of the Fens.

*Cambridgeshire District & County Council Coats of Arms*