

## 330 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Alconbury Parish Council Meeting – September 2021

If the Parish wishes to submit a Local Highways Improvement Bid this year, the deadline has been extended to the 14<sup>th</sup> October

Cambridgeshire County Council is funding a one-year Community Action Programme from April 2021 to March 2022.

The programme hopes to establish a network of Community Flood action groups, creating flood action plans for communities to enact in the event of a flood. As well as providing a one stop shop for flood risk information, an improved flood reporting system which will be accessible from a smart phone.

The County Council is providing free online flood incident training for community flood groups.

Working with Headteachers the County Council have produced a letter to go to Parents to outline the challenges we face and our advice to best protecting their children.

Vaccinations for 12-15 year olds will start to be delivered from this week. Schools are hosting the vaccinations but health colleagues will be administering the scheme. The CC will be sending out a press release this week outlining the importance of the scheme. The County Council have also been supporting the booster vaccination programme for special school staff.

The CC as in previous half term holidays is preparing to provide free school meals to children over the October Half Term. A letter outlining the offer will be available from the start of October.

The A428 dualling between the Black Cat Roundabout and the Caxton Gibbet has entered the Examination stage of the Development Consent Order Application on the 18<sup>th</sup> August, this will last six months. You will be able to follow the scheme throughout the examination period on the Planning Inspectorate website. The road is expected to open 2025/26 and will be renumbered the A421

Cambridgeshire Libraries are looking for feedback from residents on why they value their local library service as part of Libraries Week which runs from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October, to take part in the survey go to <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/6HSTQX/>

The County Council is now in the process of looking for a New Chief Executive. The new administration have stated that this post will only cover Cambridgeshire County Council and will not be a shared position with Peterborough City, along with all future executive positions. This is likely to result in higher costs for the County Council.

Joseph Hudson's replacement as the Local Highways Engineer is due to start in mid October, following training. I had a preliminary meeting with he today, and have agreed to have regular monthly meetings. I mentioned the blocked gully opposite the shop

With regard to the new pumps for Rusts Lane, the target cost has been received and the order for the works raised. It is hoped the works will be carried out in the near future.

With regard to the Acoustic fencing underneath the B1043 viaduct, the CC is awaiting the contractor to confirm when the plant is available to undertake the work. As soon as I get more information I will let you know.

The New Shire Hall at Alconbury weald has opened and we are starting to have in person committee meetings at the New Shire Hall.

I meet with the officer in charge of the trunk road network in our area from National Highways yesterday.

He has a meeting arranged to discuss stabilisation of the brook under the A1M viaduct and will report back the outcome. I also discussed the B1043 HGV situation and he advised he would look into directing traffic away from the B1043 using signage.

Highways England are asking for your views regarding the A14 between Ellington and Thrapston. I would urge all Parishes to engage with their route strategies process, if you want grade separated junctions or deceleration lanes through the purchase of land to remove the at grade junctions with no slip roads:

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/our-route-strategies/>

You have until the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to feedback your views on

<https://routestrategies.highwaysengland.co.uk/>

The District Council is applying for Civil Parking Enforcement measures so that the Council will be able to employ Traffic Wardens to enforce parking restrictions.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me

Kind regards

Ian

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury

## 333 CROWN GARDENS

### **Occupancy details since the scheme reopened:**

- 23 households have been accommodated at Crown Gardens since it re-opened in April this year.
- 6 of those households have since moved on – with an average stay of 12 weeks for those households that have now left the scheme.
- There are currently 17 households staying at the scheme.

### **Update on any issues arising:**

The Manager at Crown Gardens is in regular dialogue with local residents – two neighbours in particular who have highlighted issues and have been provided with contact details if other issues arise.

Complaints have tended to be focussed on noise being created by customers using the car park and the disturbance this creates for residents.

The level at which noise becomes unacceptable is incredibly difficult to judge and is also very subjective. Moving forward we will ensure that we give feedback to neighbours where, after investigation, the issues raised do not constitute a nuisance and the reasons why this may be the case.

All complaints made are investigated and residents at the scheme challenged where behaviour has been unacceptable.

Contractors using the car park to carry out works on site have also been made aware of the need to be considerate towards neighbours with regard to levels of noise created.

There is a staff presence from 8am to 6pm Monday to Sunday with security on site out of day-time hours.

Although we have been clear from the outset with residents moving into the scheme about setting clear standards of behaviour that are expected, we have continued to work on this with residents and develop this further. Any incidents of unacceptable behaviour will continue to be managed and dealt with.

### **Car parking provision:**

There have been times where the car park has been full and we are looking to create an additional number of car park spaces and have made some progress with this.

I am confident that we will have some clarity on this and be able to update the Parish Council at their meeting in October.

We will continue to engage openly and honestly with residents.

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## 335 TABFG UPDATE

### **The Alconbury Brook Flood Group Report on activities to 22 September 2021**

The EA have forwarded their maintenance schedule for the autumn (a first). It includes bank cutting, bush removal and reed spraying where accessible from the beginning of Alconbury Weston (North end) to Armstrong's Gorse approx. 1.5km south of Alconbury. The maintenance manager has agreed to walk the route when complete with Charles Dalleywater. Exact details are being checked including along-side Hamerton Road.

Flood Group volunteers are complimenting the EA maintenance work by clearing key parts of the brook (under permit exemption in the name of TAFG) and banks where access is more difficult. Between 10 and 20 volunteers including a good contingent from Alconbury Weston have cleared in and in front of the Heritage Bridge channels and the adjacent bank following very useful preparation by Roger Read. (A priority since this is a major bottleneck) and below the Alconbury Ford. Chris and Penny Butler have done a vast amount on either side of the brook on their land. Volunteers have cleared the bank of bushes on Angus Lammie's land where the bridleway goes through a double metal gate. Further work is planned for Saturdays until weather or high water prevents progress.

As riparian owners of the bank upstream of the Heritage Bridge, we would strongly encourage the Alconbury Parish Council to put in place a contingency for ongoing maintenance.

The CC have promised funding for owners of small sections of bank who don't have the resources to do clearance work themselves. TAFG have agreed to assist residents with funding application forms if required. Since this may take some time, the TAFG volunteer force may do the work.

The CC have also published the Section 19 report for the flooding in December 2020. The Flood Group feel that there are some technical inaccuracies and are collating these so that the CC have a correct record. However, the CC (and Ian Gardner) have been very helpful in supporting other projects including planned acquisition of telemetry equipment and support for channel refurbishment (being led by Debbie Hose) with gabions under the A1 Bridge.

Members of the group have a key meeting with the EA at the end of this month. This will be to formalise the proposals between the EA and the consultant that will go forward for modelling. They will hopefully include the dam/reservoir proposal and the large NFM structures described published in TAFG document '*Slow, Stretch and Store*'.

Results of the modelling will feed into a business case for funding with possible public consultation in the spring/summer 2022. The TAGF and Parish Councils will have a key role.

TAGF hope to install a small number of small NFM structures on ditches north of Alconbury Weston and are currently consulting farmers and the Internal Drainage Board. Constructive progress has been made.

TAFG made a submission to the DC Planning Department regarding the proposal for 15 houses adjacent to Chequers Close Alconbury Weston. We opposed the proposal because it did not compensate adequately for the natural flood management function of the site and its surrounding ditches.

TAFG has set up an associated charity 'The Alconbury Brook Flood Group Charity' with a formal constitution. It will be holding an inaugural meeting soon.

TAGF are considering a newsletter to Alconbury and Alconbury Weston in November.