

## Agenda item 0522.011 - Report from your County & District Councillor

### Alconbury Annual Parish Council Meeting – May 2022

The outcome of the County Council Elections held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 21 was Conservatives 28 seats, Lib Dem 20 seats, Labour 9 seats and Independents 4 seats. As a result the council has gone into No Overall Control. Which has led the Lib Dems, Labour and Independents to form a pact to run the Council.

In the Alconbury and Kimbolton division I was returned with 67.9 % of the vote and a majority of 1874. Which was very humbling, to know that I had received such a large vote of support from the electorate of the division. I look forward to working with everyone for the benefit of residents and businesses.

One of the Lib Dem, Labour & Independent Pacts early decisions was to abolish the Health Committee, which is somewhat strange when it along with the Communities committee has been driving the County Councils work on the Covid 19 pandemic. This decision to merge the Health Committee with the Adults Committee, has led to Children's Health issues being neglected such as Mental Health. Which the administration now appears to be now recognising, we wait to see how they will tackle this issue.

This year the Lib Dem Lead Administration including Labour and Independents voted to increase your General council Tax by 1.99% and The Adult Social Care Levy by 3% giving a total increase of 4.99%. Which will result in a Band D property's County Council's proportion of the Council Tax being £1469.61. The administration will not be spending this additional money raised from you on better services for you and I. Instead, it will be putting almost Seven million pounds into Reserves. The Conservatives alternative budget would have seen the General Council Increase of 1.99% removed and at least 4.1 million pounds spent on Flood prevention measures in our villages such as Kimbolton and Alconbury.

The Combined Authority has set up a Demand Responsive Transport Trial Scheme for West Huntingdonshire, serving St Neots & Huntingdon, as it is now the Authority in charge of Buses.

DRT is a totally flexible service, known locally as Ting so it does not have to stick to a specific timetable or route. Using either an App or a phone call to the travel hub customers will be able to book a journey from a location of their choice. The technology will tell passengers where to wait at their virtual bus stop for pick up and drop off points. This makes it the perfect solution in Rural Areas where a normal bus service would struggle to reach the necessary passenger numbers to remain viable.

The cost of the service is £2 one way or £4 return. If a resident wishes to go to Cambridge for example – You buy your return ticket on the Ting bus for £4 to St Neots the onward journey to Cambridge and return will cost an additional £4. All you



need to do is show your Ting Ticket to the Stagecoach driver of the Cambridge Bus (905) from St Neots

If you are a Bus Pass holder then all trips are free. There is now a youth Fare for young people up to 19 which is £1 one way and £2 return. The trial period has been extended by three months.

Under the proposed Parliamentary Boundary Changes, we will see an additional seat in Cambridgeshire. Alconbury will stay in the proposed Huntingdon Constituency, which will lose St Neots but gain all the parishes within my County division except Great & Little Gidding. St Neots will be in a new Constituency extending from St Neots to Girton in Cambridge.

I continue to work with the County Council to see a reduction in noise from the B1043 viaduct. I am pleased to report that trees have been positioned along the boundary of Lordsway Park, to deaden the noise. The CC is now designing a noise barrier to be fitted to the bridge to reduce the noise further.

I am meeting with Maritime Haulage to discuss their issues with parking on the road outside their site which blocks the footpath and to discuss the use of the A141 & A1307 rather than the B1043 the 13<sup>th</sup> May

I will continue to work with the Alconbury Flood Group to find ways of alleviating the flooding in Alconbury and to source monies from various agencies for this work including the County Council. My thanks go to Charles Dalleywater and all of the Flood Group for their excellent work in getting such a dynamic group going and coming up with ideas to alleviate flooding which the Environment agency etc are taking on board.

I continue to work heavily with National Highways and the parishes adjacent to the A14, to get safety improvements along the section of road from Ellington to Thrapston. The aim is to try and secure funding for grade separated junctions along this section. The parishes concerned have reported back to National highways through their Route Strategies consultation.

New Shire Hall has now opened, and the Council is holding its Committee meetings there. Full Council meetings currently are being held at alternative venues due to Covid restrictions and concerns for Councillor's safety following the Murder of David Amiss MP. It has been confirmed that Full Council meetings will commence at New Shire Hall in July, following the lifting of Covid restrictions.

Over the last 12 months I have sat on the County Councils Environment & Green Investment, Planning and Pension Committees as well as the Fire Authority.

With regard to the District Council over the last twelve months I have sat on the Development Management Committee, Overview & Scrutiny Performance and Growth and Customers & Partnerships Committee's

I am also the District Council's representative on the Alconbury & Ellington Internal Drainage Board and on the Kimbolton School Board of Governors.

Over the period of the pandemic I am pleased to say that the District Council kept the Grey, Blue and Green Bin fortnightly collections going which was greatly appreciated by residents, unlike Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire DC.

The District Council will be bringing in Civil Parking Enforcement next year. Using devolved powers from the Police, will enable HDC to enforce on street parking issues. The Council will deliver a District wide enforcement service, which will consist of officers directly employed by HDC, to tackle persistent parking issues in our towns and villages.

The result of last week's District Council election was that the District Council has gone into NOC, the Conservative Party remains the largest on 22 seats.

Independents have 11 seats, Liberal Democrats 10, Labour 4, St Neots Independents 4 and Greens 1

In the Alconbury ward I received 690 votes against the Green candidate's 406 votes. The Liberal Democrats, Labour parties did not put up candidates, thus disenfranchising their core voters.

I achieved 63% of the vote on a turnout of 37.5% which was very similar to the turnout in 2018

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact preferably by email on [Ian.Gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Kind regards

Ian

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury

**Alconbury Parish Council**  
**RECONCILIATION - Unity Trust Bank Current T1**

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From Accounts .....	£34,970.87
Payments not cashed ..... Add .....	£6,581.50
Receipts not entered ..... Subtract .....	£960.00
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<b>Statement should be .....</b>	<b>£40,592.37</b>



**Alconbury Parish Council**  
**RECONCILIATION - Unity Trust Bank Instant Access**

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From Accounts .....	£34,905.59
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Payments not cashed .....	Add .....
Receipts not entered .....	Subtract .....

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<b>Statement should be .....</b>	<b>£34,905.59</b>
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