

Agenda item: 1122.113 - Cllr I. Gardener report

Alconbury Parish Council Meeting – November 2022

I attended the Alconbury weald Joint Parish Meeting on 31 October. As of October there were 779 dwellings occupied. The Co Op adjacent to New Shire Hall should open in June. The AW1 Bus Service is proving very popular.

I have asked Urban & Civic to help if the Parish puts forward an application for a Weight Limit on the B1043. Urban & Civic have agreed to meet the Parish wishes on this matter.

The Combined Authority (Mayor) has launched a consultation on a strategy to speed up the switch to electric, hydrogen and other renewable fuelled vehicles. By increasing the number of electric vehicle charging points, encouraging people to choose an alternative fuelled vehicle and by encouraging people to walk, cycle or take public transport as the first choice for journeys. For more information go to The Cambridge & Peterborough Combined authority website to view the consultation proposals

This year's applications 23/24 for LHI funding will commence on the 31st October and close on 6th January 23, with the Panel meeting in May 23

There are some important changes to the LHI process, the process will be amended by the introduction of two process routes ie Non-complex and Complex Schemes. Non Complex schemes would be parking restrictions such as double yellow lines, street lighting, speed limits & MVAS etc. Complex schemes would be raised features, pedestrian crossings, foot/cycle paths etc

The maximum contribution from the County for Non-complex schemes would be £10,000 and for Complex schemes would be £25,000.

The consultation regarding Sustainable Travel and the associated Congestion Charge can be found on the Greater Cambridge Partnership website – <http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/mc-2022>. The consultation lasts until 23 December 2022.

At the latest consultation meeting for Councillors at HDC, I have asked that they look at providing a bus service to the villages including Alconbury, Alconbury Weston & The Giddings. As none of the villages west of the A1 are included within the Sustainable Travel Zone proposed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership are now saying that residents travelling to A&E at Addenbrookes would not be liable for the Congestion charge but have not said how this would work. The congestion charge will only operate on weekdays ie Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm. All vehicles entering the zone will be charged including Electric vehicles.

The Administration led by the Lib Dems are asking residents of Cambridgeshire to give their views on the future direction of spending, via an online survey on the County's website. The survey went live this week and will close on Sunday 11th December. The Council will need to make Budget Decisions in January/February 23

The Boundary Commission have proposed a new Huntingdon Parliamentary Constituency as part of their proposals for Seven Parliamentary Constituencies in Cambridgeshire. It will cover all of my County Division apart from the villages of Great and Little Gidding. The existing Huntingdon Constituency will lose St Neots and the Great Paxton and Fenstanton District wards. The new will include the District wards of Alconbury, Brampton, Buckden, Great Staughton, Kimbolton, Sawtry, Somersham & Warboys

The Government has provided funding to enable Cambridgeshire County Council to provide Enriching experiences and a nutritious lunch for children and young people receiving income related free school meals throughout the Christmas Holidays. The programme is available to primary & secondary school children. Eligible children can attend a holiday scheme for up to 16 hours between the 22nd December and January 3rd. Cambridgeshire is also funding free access to families struggling financially and to recently arrived refugee families.

The District Council are also preparing its Budgets for next year and the likely impact on Council Tax. The Lib Dem lead coalition administration are asking for your feedback on what you would like the Council to spend money on. The consultation lasts until the 30th November. One of the areas being looked at is charging for Green Bins, which the previous Conservative administration always pledged not to charge for.

The District council have decided to increase the fees at One Leisure Centres from 1st January by 8.7% on average. Which is hoped will increase revenue to assist in meeting higher costs relating to energy and wages. If this does not materialise, the Portfolio holder who is an Independent Councillor admitted she had no Plan B if this did not work.

Further information can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf

Contact Email on Ian.Gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Kind regards

Ian

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury

Agenda item 1122.112

Alconbury Brook Flood Group (FG)

Report November 26th 2022

Alconbury Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme.

- A meeting took place last week with EA about the Flood Alleviation Scheme ('the options'). These are regular scheduled meetings.
- Visit to Barford Reservoirs was discussed (see below)
- Survey team had started work from the Old Bridge Hotel, Huntingdon to Hamerton.
- Discussion about estimating scheme benefit without accurate data. FG is currently collecting lived data of accurate flood depths in the 78 properties which flooded indoors in 2020.
- Positive discussion.

Barford Reservoir

- FG invited to look at Barford Reservoirs by IDB operations manager and later by farmer who owns land adjacent to both dams.
- Two 5m high bunds with culverts in different watercourses possibly similar in design to Option 5 at Alconbury Weston
- Built 2007 for approx. £500,000 each. Funding from a variety of sources including Defra 45%
- Both are Reservoirs, so regular engineering inspection. Structure very simple, soil netted grass bank with embedded curb stones
- Clay spoil from another project close by incorporated into the bunds
- Great Barford flooding frequency and number of properties affected similar to Alconbury's.
- Took less than a fortnight to construct each dam!
- Alconbury version 1m higher and somewhat larger storage capacity given shape of upstream valley.
- **Using local contractors to reduce cost and funding arrangements discussed with EA FAS team at meeting above**
Many thanks to IDB Phil Lovesey and landowner Gary Davison



40 Ponds/NFM Two more NFM projects now completed this month. (left Black Lodge Pond by FG and FWAG and right Winwick new brook meanders, ponds and leaky dams by EA and FWAG) Black Lodge filling and emptying nicely in last few days. Winwick project significant project on 250m of brook upstream) FG

Thanks to Lucy Jenkins FWAG and Karen Paterson EA)

Next two ponds are in planning process: AW - Philip Baker's Pond planning application submitted; Buckworth Brook scrape application with planning consultant.

Survey Community interaction with survey team revealed that the team ~~have~~ has been commissioned to do 100m intervals. We have suggested to EA that this may miss key bottlenecks and pinch points, ~~and that these~~ are important when improving the current models. Suggestions have been made to show some additional cross sections that could be surveyed.

Sensor projects FG believes that accurate information about rainfall, soil moisture and flow is crucial to understanding the brook and measuring outcomes of interventions. FG has met with *cthings* and CCC to look at how we could integrate our sensors with their 3G data communication system. Very positive response. Visit planned to *cthings* HQ to develop technical side. Bid in to 'entrade' for £7500 towards sensors and nodes. FG is monitoring soil moisture and flow on a regular basis.

Preparedness Flooding is now possible after months of very dry conditions. Readers should not be over-concerned because the system is coping well with normal rain events, and if anything, a little better given various interventions and small improvements. However, a little preparation and sensible vigilance is a good idea.

Volunteer work Huge thanks to volunteers who cleared banks in AW and have removed flood debris and a tree, also those who removed debris from a culvert in School Lane ditch. EA/IDB maintenance team have done more good and useful bank cutting near the racecourse.

Newsletter Issue 4 will be distributed this week.

Alconbury Parish Council

Prepared by: Alison Brown (Clerk/RFO)
Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Date: 29th November 2022

Approved by: Tracy Gilbert (Chair)
Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

Date: 29th November 2022

	Bank Reconciliation at 31/10/2022			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2022			58,897.76
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2022 - 31/10/2022			44,760.45
				103,658.21
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2022 - 31/10/2022			26,758.79
A	Cash in Hand 31/10/2022 (per Cash Book)			76,899.42
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	31/10/2022	0.00	
	Lloyds Bank	31/10/2022	0.81	
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	31/10/2022	34,988.54	
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	31/10/2022	42,150.07	
				77,139.42
	Less unrepresented payments			240.00
				76,899.42
	Plus unrepresented receipts			
B	Adjusted Bank Balance			76,899.42
	A = B Checks out OK			