

Agenda item 0123.157 Cllr Gardener report

Alconbury Parish Council Meeting – January 2023

The construction of the Sound Barrier adjacent to Lordsway Park is well underway and should be completed soon. Hopefully this will make a difference for the residents.

National Highways are preparing the broken fence adjacent to the A1M

Improvements to the Alconbury Brook, Alan Trille has confirmed that the Topographical surveys of the High Street/ Alconbury Brook under the A1M viaduct were expected to be undertaken earlier this month, to provide information for the final design to be carried. After which he hopes to be able to advise on the next steps in terms of final design options and potential construction programme. He has update meetings on the 9th Feb and 9th March and will keep us updated.

The County Council's Children's and Young Persons Committee have agreed to commence a consultation on the closure of Great Gidding school in July 2023, with pupils being sent to other local schools, even though the majority of these are over-subscribed in certain year groups. The new Primary school in Sawtry is not due to open before September 24. At least one of the pupils comes from the Alconbury/Alconbury Weston area

At the CYP committee I argued for this to be a genuine consultation and that no decision should be reached until everyone has given their view. If, however closure is the preferred solution following consultation, then the closure of Great Gidding school and the opening of the new Sawtry school should be aligned.

I am working with the other neighbouring County Councillors on this issue, to try and keep the school open, particularly as HDC are preparing a new Local Plan which may result in more homes within the catchment area.

Chief Inspector Paul Rogerson of Cambridgeshire Police has offered an open invitation for him and his team to meet a Cluster group of parishes to discuss any specific issue.

Applications for LHI funding for 23/24 have now closed, the Panel meeting to discuss the applications will be in May 23

The consultation regarding Sustainable Travel and the associated Congestion Charge has now closed. The County Council will be voting on the proposed Sustainable travel proposals and the associated congestion charge in March

At the latest consultation meeting for Councillors at HDC, I have asked that they look at providing an extension to the improved bus service to the villages such as Alconbury Weston. As none of the villages west of the A1 are included within the

Sustainable Travel Zone proposed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership. Or an out-of-town Park & Ride site

They are also proposing to increase the number of buses providing the Ting Service in West Huntingdonshire. Although I have been receiving complaints about the new service provider.

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 i.e., Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm. All vehicles entering the zone will be charged including Electric vehicles.

The Cambridgeshire Mayor has consulted over his proposal to add a Mayoral precept to your Council Tax Bills from April 23. We wait to see if this proposal goes ahead

The County Council budget meeting is on February 7th at which The Lib Dem/Labour /Independent Administration are proposing a maximum allowed increase of 2.99% Council Tax and 2% Social Care.

They are proposing this unwarranted maximum tax increase, whilst cutting services to the most vulnerable in society and our communities, such as

A 25% cut to the Winter Gritting network of Highways - £300k per annum

To stop all weedkilling on footpaths and roads, unless it poses a safety hazard - £125k per annum

Cutting Mental Health Support by £150k

Cutting Family Safeguarding by £325k

Cutting Support to Children with Special Needs by £75k

The Conservative alternative budget would see an additional £5m investment into the Highways Maintenance Budget, £2.5m into Flood Defence match funding pot, which would create a £ 7.5m pool to draw on as well as putting £1.25 into our communities through the Cultivate fund

The budget also proposes a 1% reduction in the administrations Council Tax Proposal, by using the rainy day reserves they have no plans for.

The Fire Authority is proposing an annual £5 increase on its Council Tax levy for a Band D property.

The District Council has decided to prepare a new local plan to ensure the plan meets all the NPPF requirements. This process will take 5 to 6 years so you should continue to prepare your Neighbourhood Plan

You will be consulted on the New Local Plan, but the consultation periods will be tight. The Parish will need to keep abreast of the consultations, some of which will affect Alconbury Weston others not.

The recycling centres are now accepting bulky waste such as sofas and chairs.

The proposed HDC Climate Strategy has been approved by Cabinet.

The District Councils budget meeting is on 22 February, the administration is proposing a £5 annual increase for a Band D property

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

Kind regards

Ian

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury

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Alconbury Brook Flood Group Report January 2023

FAS

- Progress slow. Survey complete but modelling report will take months more.
- Problem still in demonstrating cost benefit ratio despite there being plenty of funds in the pot. JP to get calculations done in-house to save time and cost.
- Flood Group have re-visited nearly every property which flooded in 1998 in order to give EA accurate property data (The Ordnance Survey receptor database being used by Jacobs to estimate benefit is inaccurate).
- Flood Group asking local contractors to quote in order to demonstrate how cost reductions might be possible.
- At EAs suggestion, next FG meeting will look at elements of less popular options to see how combinations with our preferred option might add benefit.

Pond Projects

- Planning permission turned down for Buckworth scrape! On grounds that slight overlap with Iron Age settlement. FG has negotiated with County Archaeologist and an acceptable compromise has been reached that allows us to make progress. Discussed with Planning Officer and way forward likely.
- Planning permission still awaited for large AW pond.

Video

- CCC invited FG to make a video about their work to inform other flood groups. Video team interviewed residents from A and AW

Gabions

- Further progress. Money has been allocated and survey team have visited the area so that design work can start. PCs, FG, residents will all be consulted when plans are available.

Sensor Project

- Flow, rainfall, and soil moisture as starting point.
- Experimental prototype sensors and nodes prepared by FG member.
- Awaiting an opportunity to check that prototypes communicate properly with c-Things gateways. If they do then sensor data will eventually be accessible on mobile phones.
- 4 landowners have offered to accommodate communication equipment.

Herbal Ley Project

- Experiment at Great Gidding on grass mixtures which conserve soil moisture and sediment run-off.
- Sensors will also be part of this project + biodiversity measurement and sediment run-off, soil microbe DNA and sediment fingerprinting.
- Outcomes will include dissemination of results to catchment farmers, and beyond
- Significant funding to support this project likely through Anglian Water, other help from EA and Natural England.

National Flood Forum

- Visit to look at our work and provide ideas. Commitment by them to give talk on Flood-re at FG AGM

Racecourse

- Generous support included naming a horse-race: Stop Alconbury Brook Flooding Challenge, and providing an opportunity for a bucket collection at the Boxing Day meeting. £455 raised.

Alconbury Parish Council

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

Date: 4th January 2023

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

Date: 31st January 2023

	Bank Reconciliation at 04/01/2023			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2022			58,897.76
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2022 - 04/01/2023			44,873.85
				103,771.61
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2022 - 04/01/2023			31,469.57
A	Cash in Hand 04/01/2023 (per Cash Book)			72,302.04
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	31/12/2022	0.00	
	Lloyds Bank	31/12/2022	0.81	
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	31/12/2022	35,101.94	
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	31/10/2022	37,199.29	
				72,302.04
	Less unrepresented payments			
				72,302.04
	Plus unrepresented receipts			
B	Adjusted Bank Balance			72,302.04
	A = B Checks out OK			