

Agenda item 0323.198 Report from District/County Councillor

Alconbury Parish Council Meeting – March 2023

The Lib Democrats won the St Neots Eaton's seat in the recent By Election, Taking the seat from the Independents. Which means the makeup of the Council is now Conservative 26, Lib Dems 22, Labour 8, Independents 3 with two vacancies following the resignation of Labour and Conservative Councillors

The County Council's Children's and Young Persons Committee decided at its meeting on the 8th March to continue with the Closure consultation for Great Gidding School. The final decision regarding the closure of the school will be at the CYP meeting on the 18th April.

Due to this closure process Parents are already looking at alternative schools for their children, which I can fully understand. As parents want their children to be settled and happy at their new school.

I have met with the new Ting Operators Vectare, and highlighted the issues, raised with me regarding the service. I offered to join them in taking the Bus around the villages to update residents on how to use the service going forward etc. As I did with Stagecoach when they commenced the service.

The County Council has produced its Active travel plan for Huntingdonshire. Which includes the section of the Cycleway into Alconbury from its end at roundabout at the top of the A1 Slip road. The only other proposed Active Travel Routes in West Hunts are between Tilbrook & Kimbolton, Buckden to Grafham & Ellington

The construction of these routes is reliant on monies from Government, Huntingdonshire is getting far less active travel routes than say South Cambs.

Last week the County Council voted on the proposed Busway from Cambourne to Cambridge, which will partly be on existing roads as well as on a dedicated Busway. The council voted to commence a works order for the construction of the off-road busway. The proposal will see the removal of part of the 100 yr old Coton Orchard and the interruption of views from the American Cemetery south.

The County Council also voted not to have a referendum on the proposed Congestion Charge in Cambridge. This tax would see residents/workers in Cambridge having to find an additional £1300 per annum

Applications for a 20mph schemes has opened on the 27th February and will close on 30 April. The application must have the support of the Parish Council and the County Councillor. Once an application has been submitted, it will be processed and prioritised until all schemes have been delivered.

A 20mph limit will be prioritised against the following criteria-

Evidence of traffic incidents or potential dangers within an existing 30/40mph zone

Vulnerable Road users

Visible Homes, shops and businesses

A school or a school route

A cycling Route

An area that would benefit from more active travel such as cycling and walking.

The application form is on the County Council website: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/20mph-funding>

HDC has launched its Call for Sites consultation as part of the second phase of engagement in a full update of the Local Plan

The Call for Sites is a process in which developers, landowners and members of the public are invited to put forward potential sites across the District such as :-

Residential (such as housing, specialist homes, moorings, care homes etc)

Commercial (such as retail, leisure, industrial, logistics)

Infrastructure (such as Health uses, community facilities, renewable energy)

Open Space Use (such as Sports & Recreation, allotments, flooding, biodiversity net gain etc)

The suitability of these sites will be assessed for potential allocation for their proposed use in the Local Plan Update.

HDC is encouraging local communities, landowners and developers to put forward potential sites and their proposed use.

The consultation opens on Wednesday 29th March and runs for 10 weeks to Wednesday 10th June

Launching at the same time is the consultation on two methodologies that will be used during the full update of the Local Plan. These are

Settlement Hierarchy Methodology

This document has been developed to assess the sustainability of settlements and aid decision making on their suitability for future growth in the next Local Plan

Land Availability Assessment Methodology (LAA)

The primary purpose of the LAA is to set out a clear methodology by which to assess potential development sites and provide a consistent way in which to assess their suitability, availability, achievability, deliverability and potential capacity

The consultation on these two documents runs from Wednesday 29th May for 6 weeks until Wednesday 10th May

Comments can be made on the Council's Planning Portal

For further information on the Full Local Plan update go to HDC's webpage:

www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/localplanupdate

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

Kind regards

Ian

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury

Agenda item 0323.197

Alconbury Brook Flood Group Report March 2023

FAS

- Survey data including over 150 cross sections and over 1000 photographs has been published and shared with Flood Group.
- Meeting with EA modellers (JBA) held March 17th to discuss issues that might affect the base-line model including for example sediment, sinuosity, soils, run-off etc. (discussion paper by FG available on request)
- Base line model will be ready by July and available to test options.
- JP now has two additional EA colleagues working on the project.
- EA understands concern about progress but argue that its worth spending time on creating the best outcome.

Pond Projects

- Planning proposal has now been accepted for Buckworth Scrape. County Archaeologist has written to say no further objections to new plans. Hopefully work will take place during late April/May 23/00429/AGDET
- Alconbury Weston Pond planning application has been accepted and is now available for public consultation. AW Parish Council considering next week. 22/02468/FUL
- Meeting next week with Milton Estate Manager will include Great Gidding Pond
- Outline sketches of Great Gidding Pond positively received by farmer.
- Landowner in Hamerton has approached the flood group with a view to creating a pond on their land near the brook.

Flood Mobile

- Scheduled to visit Alconbury Weston on April 29th. More info to follow.

Gabions

- Still awaiting plans

Sensor Project

- Gateway now working and receiving data from sensors and nodes. Hard work by B to get communication code working
- c-Things working with us to ensure system working well
- Next step will be installation of trial equipment in Alconbury Weston. Soon after that mobile app for Alconbury Catchment data will become available to community.

Herbal Ley Project

- Numerous meetings with experts and possible collaborators to assist design of the experiment and methods for base line testing
- Some baseline testing already being done
- Discussion with other farmers about plant species which prosper on heavy soil
- Approach made to Natural England for catchment partnership funding to extend the project and dissemination of results to farmers.

Blue Green Urban (Modular surface water retention system which incorporates natural processes)

- Meeting of Flood Group identified a number of possible places.
- Cambridgeshire Highways have said they will help FG evaluate possibilities with a view to creating a short-list
- Short list will be prepared for PCs for further discussion and refinement.

Ashden Award (£10,000) for communities working with water- next step if we are successful will be an assessor visit in the summer.

