

Agenda item: 0723.030.

Cllr Gardener report - Alconbury Parish Council Meeting – July 2023

I can inform you that HDC's Joint administration Cabinet, made up of Lib Dem, Independent, Labour, and Green councillors, on Tuesday 18th July agreed unanimously to introduce a Green Bin Subscription service from 01 April 24.

The Conservative councillors on Overview and Scrutiny Panels have Called this decision in, which will mean the decision will be discussed again by councillors, but not by the Full Council as it should be.

The cost of the Green Bin tax will be £57.50 per annum and £30.00 per annum for each additional bin up to 4.

From the 01 April 24 you will be required to put all food waste into your Grey Bin, as HDC cannot charge to collect, you can also put Green waste in the Grey bin as some residents already do.

This will lead to more waste going to landfill and thus higher Methane emissions, more vehicles on the roads leading to more pollution and congestion at HWRC's. It may also lead to greater fly tipping and more bonfires. Which flies in the face of the Council's decision, to call a Climate Emergency. HDC will also have to pay higher costs for the disposal of the waste, due to the increased quantities going for disposal.

This is a regressive tax on residents as no account is taken of the ability to pay. This tax will affect the poorest, those living in lower band properties, the elderly and resident's living alone to a greater extent.

There is a proposition to send waste freighters around the District on Saturdays to collect garden waste at certain collection points, from people. We don't yet know where and how frequent the collections would be in villages. Residents will also be able to save money by one resident paying for five bins and then distributing to 4 neighbours as the total cost per household will be £35.50. Each household would then pay their neighbour £35.50 instead of paying £57.50 each.

Regarding, HDC's Local Plan Update, I can inform the PC that Full Consultation on the sites submitted and HDC's assessment will form part of the Further Issues and Options Engagement which is scheduled for spring/summer next year. It is anticipated Parish Councils along with all other interested parties will be given 10 weeks to consider these, thus giving plenty of time for full engagement.

I am pleased to inform the PC that your LHI Bid for this year. For signs on the S Bends on Rusts Lane has scored enough points to go forward to the member LHI panel at the County Council today for approval. The final decision should be known by the end of the month.

I would like to thank those residents that attended the Ting Roadshow on Friday 2nd June.

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service are currently preparing its next plan for 2024 -28 and are seeking the views from people across Cambridgeshire to help shape how resources are used across the county.

The plan will identify the fire and rescue related risks in the County and how the Service will mitigate them, as well as the opportunities that exist to continue improving services to local communities

You can access the survey at <https://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/about-us/consultations>

The survey is open until the End of July 23 and will take 10-15 minutes to complete

Three £50 shopping vouchers are up for grabs for completing the survey.

With regard to the proposed Congestion charge in Cambridge, the Greater Cambridge Partnership are reviewing the findings of the consultation which saw 58% against the charge. It is currently expected that the GCP will present its proposals on a Congestion charge to the October County Council meeting.

The consultation showed residents did not like the Addenbrookes, the Royal Papworth and Rosie Maternity Hospitals being in the zone, as well as charging those residents who were leaving the zone to get to work, along with the cost and size of the zone.

I have on behalf of the Parish Council chased CCC Highways to get the Public footpaths cut.

With regard, to next year's Local Highways Improvement Bids Parishes will be able to submit applications from Friday 27th October 23 until noon on Friday 12th January 24. The County Council will undertake feasibility studies between February and May.

The LHI Panel meetings will be in June /July 24. With the report to Committee in September 24.

It looks as if there will be another opportunity next year to bid for a 20mph schemes, although last year's applications will still be on the list. I have asked for a copy of the ranking list of schemes already submitted. Future LHI bids for Buffer zones will receive a higher score.

The County Council has this week launched its Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund, which is a million-pound fund. The fund is open for Stage One (Expression of Interest) applications. The fund is open to Parish Councils, community organisations and public bodies. etc. The fund will award grants of up to £40,000 to support with the capital costs needed by an organization to make a community building or to make an existing community asset better.

All proposals will need to demonstrate that they can contribute to at least three of the County Council's seven ambitions. The deadline for submission of an Expression Of Interest is 24 September.

The Boundary Commission have submitted its Final Report to the Speaker and is to be laid before Parliament, regarding the new Parliamentary boundaries. Alconbury will remain in the new Huntingdon Constituency.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury

Agenda item 0723.029.

Alconbury Brook Flood Group Report June 2023

Flood Alleviation Scheme FAS

- Update from modelling company likely next week on their progress. This will result probably during July in draft maps showing properties likely to flood at certain return periods e.g. 1 in 20 years. When finalised these will be used to re-calculate the economic benefit of any scheme.

Pond Projects

- Alconbury Weston Pond
 - HDC asked for an extension in making a decision until July 15th so they could consult Highways and the Flood Authority. Both have replied. The flood Authority have supported the application and Highways have reserved judgement. We have started correspondence with Highways to resolve their queries.
- Harts Pond
 - Meeting tomorrow with the Hunts and Beds Wildlife Trust. A survey has been conducted (thanks to A and C using a paddleboard and a surveyor's pole donated by J) of the bed of the pond and a plan drawn to progress the application.
- Meander adaption
 - Downstream of Alconbury the brook is very sinuous which takes energy out of the flow. Thanks to the landowner we are now at the early stages of applying to install a shelf in the bank on one of the tightest bends so we can measure the impact on flow, sediment movement and the brook environment.

Sensor Project

- Soil moisture sensors have been installed at Sallows Farm after extensive testing by B at his house. FG plan to apply for Community Foundation funding for further sensors and community access meetings to enable people to view and use the sensor data to understand flood risk.
- C and B visited the Central Beds County Council Resilientogether Project which has similar aims to our sensor work. Interesting and useful exchange of ideas.

GreenBlue Urban project

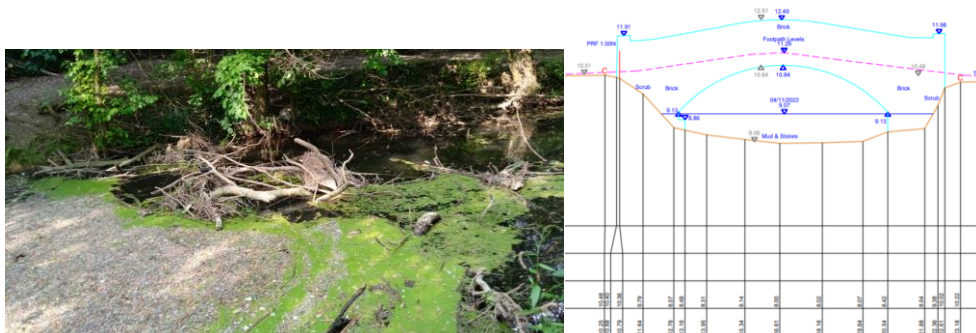
- Further supportive discussion by Parish Councils
- Plans and quotations for work in some locations have been prepared.
- Awaiting funding decision which if positive will allow work to be done September/October.

Herbal Ley Project

- Funding now seems to be assured, but other funding being sought to complement work.
- Further measurements being made including production of biomass here and on other farm sites for comparison.
- Progress slow because funding not likely to be available until September/October.
- Complementary projects on sediment and microplastics have made a little progress. Citizen science project as part of EA research. T has offered to be involved in trapping microplastics.

Meeting with Olive Morley (CEO Huntingdonshire District Council)

- Thanks to Ian for organising.
- Introduced FG to Oliver and raised issues including footbridge and riparian maintenance (see photos) at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, stressed importance of using up to date brook modelling in making planning and emergency response policy, Section 3 which is about new legal responsibilities on developers to ensure flood risk is mitigated, and BNG which is a new legal framework to ensure developers compensate for any environmental losses.



*The state of Alconbury Brook at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park
And .. very small footbridge impedes brook flow at Hinchingsbrooke CP*

Village Fete 8th July: We will have a stall on Alconbury Village Green, drop by and say hello

Contact us at: info@alconburyfloodgroup.uk

Alconbury Parish Council

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

Date: 19th July 2023

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

Date: 25th July 2023

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|----------|---|------------|-----------|------------------|
| | Bank Reconciliation at 30/06/2023 | | | |
| | Cash in Hand 01/04/2023 | | | 68,389.00 |
| | ADD Receipts 01/04/2023 - 30/06/2023 | | | 22,548.96 |
| | | | | 90,937.96 |
| | SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2023 - 30/06/2023 | | | 12,212.55 |
| A | Cash in Hand 30/06/2023 (per Cash Book) | | | 78,725.41 |
| | Cash in hand per Bank Statements | | | |
| | Petty Cash | 30/06/2023 | 0.00 | |
| | Unity Trust Bank Instant Access | 30/06/2023 | 35,465.28 | |
| | Unity Trust Bank Current T1 | 30/06/2023 | 46,108.29 | |
| | | | | 81,573.57 |
| | Less unrepresented payments | | | 2,848.16 |
| | | | | 78,725.41 |
| | Plus unrepresented receipts | | | |
| B | Adjusted Bank Balance | | | 78,725.41 |
| | A = B Checks out OK | | | |