

Agenda item 0923.071.1

Alconbury Brook Flood Group Report September 2023

EA Flood alleviation scheme: We have been invited to look at the model outputs this week in a meeting with the EA and the modelling company JBA. These outputs will be in the form of maps and other similar data showing the extent of flooding predicted for different return periods e.g. 1 every 20 years; 50 years and so on. We will be able to compare the model with real life. The first step will be to ensure the model is valid.

IF the new model then shows that more properties flood more often than the old model, then *maybe* we will be able to show more benefit to be gained from a possible flood alleviation scheme. Extra benefit will mean extra funding for any scheme. Testing the model against possible schemes will take until January 2024.



Alconbury Weston Easter 1998

GreenBlue: Acting on the information received from GreenBlue during an on-site meeting, plans to install the HydroPlanters at the Memorial Hall are developing well. A local contractor has quoted for the project. Surplus spoil will be disposed of thanks to excellent advice from Mr Philip Baker. GreenBlue have offered further support as we begin and during the work. Funding is imminent. When the time comes, we will be looking for some willing volunteers to help with some aspects of preparation and installation. We are aiming for the work to be done before the end of November.

Volunteer work and Brook Maintenance.

Internal Drainage Board will be flailing banks in the next 2 weeks. Volunteers have been tackling the places inaccessible to a tractor and have done excellent work beyond the flyover, near the ford and near the Heritage Bridge. In October we will be doing work near the Alconbury Weston Ford, downstream of the Alconbury Sewerage Works, and a soil measuring morning.

Alconbury Weston Pond Archaeology: Quotes for the archaeology and necessary excavation have been acquired and funding has been assured. The next step is to get a brief for the work from Cambridgeshire County Council. Our chosen archaeological organisation will then produce a work schedule which will need to be approved. Hopefully by the next edition of our bulletin we will be able to report that the archaeology can begin. Although we have been assured that it is unlikely that Iron Age people built a village on a boggy field, there is always the risk that we turn up a Roman temple which might slow things down considerably!! We still hope that actual excavation of the pond will take place well before Christmas.

Harts Pond: We have met with Phil Hart the farmer who, with minor modifications, has approved the plan. A few pieces of paperwork to sign and then hopefully volunteers will move in, in October to complete some tree work, and then the contractor to do the excavation.

Small meander adaption- Permit application approved work to be done later in the autumn.

Charity: We have applied for a 'Just Giving' page

Nitrate measurement: Volunteers have carried out a second survey at the beginning of September. Again levels are higher as you move downstream, slightly lower than August's measurements.



Bank clearance near Alconbury Ford

Debris in the brook at **Hinchingbrooke Country Park** is still there despite our request that it be removed. Nuns Bridge is badly blocked topped off with a supermarket trolley. The debris may block the bridge and the trolley may get stuck in Garkies Sluice. **This is very disappointing since we were promised action last month and the month before! Watch this space.**

Herbal Ley Project: Seed sowing for at least 2 of the experiments during October. Volunteers will be doing soil testing during October. Exciting! Work has started on our first video, link to YouTube channel in next bulletin.

Sensor Project: We will know if Cambridgeshire Community Foundation can support the purchase of additional sensors and the community dissemination of the information by November 1st

Mill Road Drains. A change in staff at CCC has resulted in a slight delay in inspection for further action. Our County Councillor has assured us this will be discussed this week and following a Flood Group request the 3 gullies in Mill Road/Brookside bend area were jetted and suctioned. It seems there is likely to be a blockage in the pipes running underground to the brook. We have requested a joint onsite visit with the Highways as the first step in resolving this issue. This has been reported to CCC for follow-up and our County Councillor for support.

Brampton Cross Meeting with BX team held and a number of questions submitted. The Parish Council are arranging a public meeting with BX in October. We hope to have answers to our questions before the meeting.

Flood Conference: 5 members of the Flood Group attended Cambridgeshire's second Flood Conference with us all returning with useful info and contacts. Back in January 23 Cambridgeshire made a short video about TABFG, we have seen a preview and understand it will soon be released. Link to video in next bulletin.

Contact us at: info@alconburyfloodgroup.uk



Cllr Gardener report Alconbury Parish Council Meeting – September 2023

HDC is preparing for planned industrial action, by all Unison members employed by the Council. The union intend to take strike action on Friday 6th October in relation to a pay dispute relating to the pay award for 2023/24. If the issue is not resolved by that date, then the Union intends to pursue a period of industrial action in the form of an ongoing period of work to rule from Monday 9th October. Residents will be able to keep up to date regarding the strike action on the HDC website.

From the 01 April 24 you will be required to put all food waste into your Grey Bin, as HDC cannot charge to collect food waste, you can also put Green waste into the Grey bin as some residents already do. Please do not put Food waste into your Green Bin if you pay the additional charge as HDC are not able to collect Green Bins containing food waste, for the above reason.

Under the Green Bin Subscription Service (Green Bin Tax), HDC are providing Compost Bins with Food Waste bins at a cheaper rate. Please visit the HDC's website for more information.

Residents will also be able to save money by one resident paying for five bins and then distributing to 4 neighbours. The total cost per household would then be £35.50. Each household would then pay their neighbour £35.50 instead of paying £57.50 each. On Bin collection day the bins would need to be put outside the property that is paying for the bins.

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 have been appointed as one of HDC's representatives on the HDC Bus Consultation working group, which is reporting back to the Mayor regarding amendments to existing Bus services.

I arranged a meeting with the County Council officers and the Flood Group to discuss the Archaeological Dig requirements for the Pond Site in Alconbury Weston which has been granted planning permission. HDC officers have asked me to arrange a meeting with the Flood Group and County Council to review the situation.

I am pleased to report that the new Public Rights of Way Officer for Hunts starts in October. The council also hopes to appoint a new Green Infrastructure Manager and two Green Infrastructure Technical Officer roles as well. I will keep the Council updated on progress.

I can also report that the Local Highways Officer replacement for Sharon Middleton should be in post in October. The new Local Highways Manager has said that he wants the new officer to continue to have regular meetings with myself and the parishes to discuss any issues. I will keep the Parish updated.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury

Alconbury Parish Council

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

Date: 19th September 2023

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

Date: 26th September 2023

A	Bank Reconciliation at 03/09/2023		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2023		68,389.00
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2023 - 03/09/2023		26,122.46
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2023 - 03/09/2023		94,511.46
	Cash in Hand 03/09/2023 (per Cash Book)		25,292.03
B	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash	31/08/2023	0.00
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	03/09/2023	33,754.15
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	31/08/2023	35,465.28
			69,219.43
	Less unrepresented payments		
		69,219.43	
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
		69,219.43	
	Adjusted Bank Balance		69,219.43
	A = B Checks out OK		