Agenda item 1223.127. Alconbury Brook Flood Group Report December 2023

A very merry Christmas to all of our friends and supporters. Have a great time and may your feet stay dry!

We are delighted to say that a very large grant from Anglian Water has arrived. This is being spent on the GreenBlue Rainwater Gardens, the large storage pond at Alconbury Weston and the Deep Roots project at Great Gidding.

Volunteering and maintenance. Many thanks to volunteers who did bank clearance along Hamerton Road. Also to those who cleared away the trees which were previously removed from the brook at Polecat Lane.

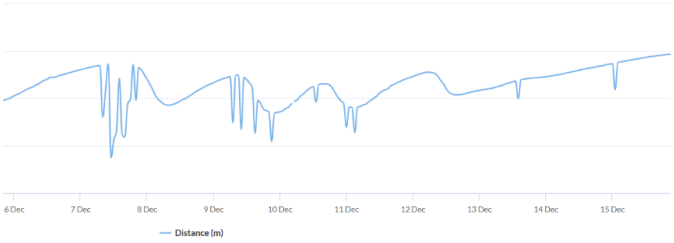
EA flood alleviation scheme: Progress is being made. The latest stage summarised by the EA last week: '*From an initial review of the updated baseline model outputs, we believe that there is value in testing the full set of proposals through the options modelling. We will be progressing with this work in the new year'.*

Alconbury Weston Pond: The Archaeology process is now well underway. The archaeologists have produced their plan which is being approved by the planning department. Once approved and weather permitting deep scrapes will be made over several areas of the field to check for any artefacts and then at last the pond can be constructed.

GreenBlue: We have made considerable progress with the HydroPlanter project for the Memorial Hall. The Memorial Hall site has been surveyed and the necessary material, equipment and excavation services have been ordered. Final plans have been agreed with the Memorial Hall Committee. Currently we are negotiating dates for the delivery of the material and, when agreed, we will be able to set a date for the installation, which will be early in 2024. Meanwhile, we have started planning for the second HydroPlanter site, which will be at the Sports and Social Club. Again, all participants are fully engaged and funding has been agreed. Weather permitting, we hope that both sites will have been completed and paid for before March 2024.

Defra funding for NFM: We will hear if our bid for funding for 9 more ponds (**P4P**, **Ponds For People**) has been successful in January.

Sensors: The new depth sensors are working very well. We are making daily measurements to see how the brook flow speed relates to water depth.
Thanks to the community foundation we have funding for many more sensors. These will be installed soon. Our plan is then to hold a meeting for those interested in helping to decide what and how to present the information to members of the community. We will hold a similar meeting for the farming community to get their ideas on how to present information more relevant to agriculture.
Interested in how we present the data? Contact: info@alconburyfloodgroup.uk



Sediment origins project. Sediment is a problem in the Alconbury Brook. Many people will have noticed islands of sediment that reduce the width of the channel. Sediment also carries pollution and sometimes represents a major loss of good farmland. With funding from the EA and guidance from Dr Simon Pulley from Rothampstead Research, Flood Group volunteers are collecting sediment and soil samples from across the catchment. We hope that in the long term this project may help to reduce the sediment and pollution load in the brook. **If you sometimes walk around the countryside beyond Hamerton and would be willing to collect some small soil samples please contact:** : info@alconburyfloodgroup.uk

Rainwater harvesting for fire engines. This is not our idea but we think it's a good one. Many farms have started to collect rainwater from barn roofs. The more rainwater storage the better from a flood point of view. It would be even better if fire engines could connect to farm rainwater storage tanks in an area were wildfire are more frequent and rural water hydrants are uncommon.

Deep Roots Project. The experiment continues. We have completed our analysis of the first field and have a map of how porous the soil is. More or less larger numbers of worms coincides with more porous soils but we don't know if the worms make the soil porous or if the worms just like soil with more space. Another part of the project involves looking at how some bacteria work with plants to increase root size. We have carried out our first soil DNA extractions to see which types of fungi and bacteria are there at the moment. We plan to supplement some plots with useful bacteria.

Youtube video. The County Council have recently produced and published a video about the Alconbury Brook Flood Group. It tells you a little about us and has some excellent drone segments with views of Alconbury. You can see for yourself at: https://youtu.be/UfulW-7-dCk?si=LoClbPdO9PCWZejL

As always contact us at: info@alconburyfloodgroup.uk
Charity: A less than subtle reminder that We have a Just Giving Page: The Alconbury Brook Flood Group - JustGiving.

Agenda item 1223.128

Councillor Gardener report Alconbury Parish Council Meeting – December 2023

The recent White Lining on the B1043 only renewed what was already there, no new white lining was undertaken.

I am delighted that Urban & Civic have agreed to pay towards the cost of quarterly monitoring of the road for 12 months, to determine the volume of HGV's using the route, before a bid can be submitted. We were also informed that the cost would likely be in the region of £100,000 as signage would be required on the A1M. Once this work has been completed, we can also look to CIL funding towards the cost.

As the cost is prohibitive to the PC we are looking at other sources of funding. With regard to next years Local Highways Improvement Bids, parishes have until 5 pm on Friday 12th January 2024.

Applications for the current round of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy), funding is now open. Applications for funding can be submitted up to 23.59 on the 22nd January 2024. Further details about this funding can be found on the HDC website. Any queries should be sent to the Implementations Team at: implementation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

The Green Bin Tax (Garden Waste Subscription service) comes into force on 01 April 2024. The cost of which is £57.50 per annum. If you apply for the service before dec31st January, you will get an Early Bird Discount and will only pay £50.00 for the year, for the service. If you pay by 31st January by Direct Debit, you will only pay £50.00 per annum for 3 years for the service. If you have a slimline Green Bin, you will not receive any discount for being a smaller bin.

From the 01 April 2024 you will no longer be able to put Food Waste into your Green Bin, this will have to go into your Grey Bin as the disposal of which cannot be charged for by HDC, thus sending more waste to landfill.

Green Bins which are no longer required by residents will be collected from June 2024 onwards. If your bin is collected and you subsequently decide to join the Garden Waste Subscription service, you will be charged £57.50 plus the delivery charge for a Green Bin.

If you don't want to pay for the service, the Council suggests you take your Garden Waste to the Cambridgeshire County Council Household recycling Centre in Alconbury, or purchase a Home Compost Bin. To purchase a subsidised compost bin visit www.getcomposting.com or call 0800 316 4454. Or you can take your Garden waste to one of the Free monthly Saturday Freighter Locations between the hours of 6.30 am and 1 pm the nearest sites to us are CARESCO in Sawtry (week 1 of the month) and One Leisure in Huntingdon (Week 3 of the month).

The Fire Authority are proposing the closure of 3 On Call Fire Stations one of which is Kimbolton in my division, the other two being Manea and Sutton. The reason for this change is because the Fire Authority cannot attract sufficient staff of provide operational cover particularly during the day.

The FA will be looking at the feasibility of this proposal in the New Year, to see if the proposals will deliver the improvements to the service the FA thinks it will. The FA will be consulting with residents in the areas most affected, listening to concerns and explaining the proposal in more detail with local data.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury

Alconbury Parish Council

Prepared by: Alison Brown (Clerk & RFO) Date: 8th December 2023

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: Cllr Tracy Gilbert (Chair) Date: 19th December 2023

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 30/11/2023			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2023			68,389.00
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2023 - 30/11/2023			45,932.64
				114,321.64
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2023 - 30/11/2023			32,191.13
A	**Cash in Hand 30/11/2023** (per Cash Book)			**82,130.51**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	30/11/2023	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	30/11/2023	35,706.15	
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	30/11/2023	49,577.84	
				85,283.99
	Less unpresented payments			3,153.48
				82,130.51
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**82,130.51**
	A = B Checks out OK			

Created by Scribe