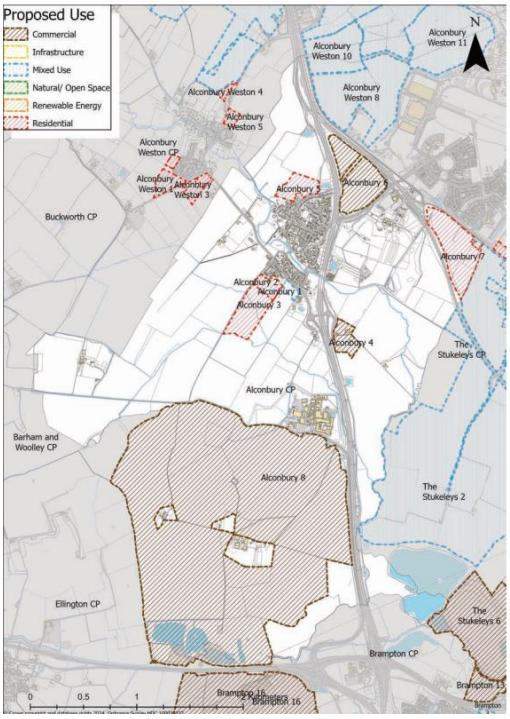
Agenda item 1024.088

Alconbury Brook Flood Group – end October 2024

This is a quick update of work done since our last bulletin.



Action on Call for Sites:

Members of the Flood Group are in the process of responding to the current consultation of Huntingdonshire's Land Availability Assessment. This is a early stage assessment of land that could/might be developed in the future.

There are 30 potential development sites in Alconbury, Alconbury Weston, Upton and Coppingford, The Stukeleys and Brampton.

More than half of these would have significant flood risk implications. As a flood group we will be pointing out these risks.

In some cases constructive work with developers could reduce overall flood risk. We will be making preliminary suggestions as to how this could happen.

Our comments will be restricted to flood risk and mitigation.

If readers want to make comments on any matter to do with any of the proposals you can by going to https://consult.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/kse/event/38140. The consultation will finish on Wednesday 27 November 2024 at 23:59.

Maintenance: Brilliant work by volunteers who have already completed nearly all of the central part of Alconbury Weston and some key parts of Alconbury. We have also cleared the undergrowth around the Mill Road Ditch so it can be dug out and removed two willow stands which had grown across the brook. Meanwhile the idb have cleared around the south side of the race course. We look forward to measuring the impact of this clearance using our telemetry equipment. Very pleased that bank flailing has started in villages, thanks IDB!

Large donation from the SHAWL fund. We are very grateful to the SHAWL fund for their kind donation. This will be used to upgrade our maintenance equipment and but the interpretation board which will go near to the Alderman's Pond.

Interpretation Board The information board is currently being designed by John Souter ready for printing on metal. The lectern will be made by a company in the catchment. We are totally delighted with the artwork which will form the centrepiece of the board which was created for us by Pauline Hose

Farm Walk. We held our second well attended farm walk at Cowpasture Farm recently. This was an opportunity for us to tell people about our initial findings that some plant treatments increased soil health. Many thanks to TH Branson for hosting this event for us. Many thanks also to Anglian Water and Natural England who helped to fund this event.

Sediment bid Rothamsted Research's bid for funding to evaluate sediment mitigation strategies within the catchment was not successful. However the process has enabled us to recruit several farmers into our own future projects and make 2 bids for funding to support our own work.

Our many other projects… all making slow progress. Hoping to report on some of these in the next edition.

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Cllr Gardener report Alconbury PC Meeting – October 2024

Good Evening

Regarding your LHI bid for this year, I am delighted to inform you that Alconbury's bid for Mobile activated Speed Signs was confirmed as successful at the Highways & Transportation Committee Meeting on the 1st October.

Next year's LHI Bid funding commences on Friday 1st November and Closes on Friday 10th January 25. Feasibility studies for the schemes will be undertaken between February & May next year. With the Panel meetings being held in June /July. Complex schemes are decided by a panel of Councillors, Non-Complex by a panel of Officers. The value of schemes remains the same i.e. £10,000 for Non-Complex and £25,000 for Complex.

Details of the types of schemes can be found on the County Council Website.

The decision for next year's LHI Bid's will be confirmed at the October meeting of the Highways & transportation Committee.

If Alconbury wants a 20mph scheme then you can apply from Monday 27th January 25 until Friday 28th March @ 5pm. Feasibility studies will undertake between April to July 25, with the Highways & Transportation Committee making the decision which schemes have been successful at its October meeting.

The District Council have confirmed their £5000 contribution towards the Silt Clearance at Nunns Bridge. The CC will clear the gully/drain on Mill Road and have asked the Flood Group can to assist in clearing the drain from its outlet to the brook

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (Mayor) is asking for views on the future of Cambridgeshire Buses with the launch of its bus franchising consultation.

The 14-week consultation will be open until Wednesday 20 November 24 and will inform a decision on how to reform buses across the area.

The consultation webpage is https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-franchising-consultation/

There are two versions of the questionnaire – a short version comprising 10 questions and a long version comprising 31 questions. You chose which questionnaire you wish to complete. Details of drop in events around the County will be listed on the website during the consultation.

The Administration at the District Council voted against supporting the Age UK petition to try to get the new Government to reverse or amend its proposals for Cutting the Winter Fuel Allowance to Pensioners. Other neighbouring Local authorities in Cambridgeshire have supported the petition to government.

The Local Plan consultation on the Further Issues and Options, Land availability assessments and sustainability Appraisal conclude on the 27 November 24.

The Further Issues and Options consultation sets out the options for what may be included in the new local plan across a variety of subjects including a growth strategy and sustainability of settlements that will help direct the location of growth in the district. Othe topics included flooding, climate change, design, housing requirements, employment, transportation etc.

Land Availability Assessments – assesses the sites that have been put forward by landowners, developers, agents etc to see if they are potentially suitable or unsuitable for development, the conclusion of which can be found at the end of each assessment.

Sustainability Appraisal – Assesses our strategies, options sites, and future policies against a series of sustainability objectives.

The District Council would like residents to make comment on the proposals as well as Parish Councils, so that they hear as many views as possible.

The District Council endorsed a plan for priority landscape areas in the Nature Recovery Network for the district, which is be commended, but the plan will have no planning weight.

The Sale of Shire Hall with the CC's preferred bidder has fallen through again. So, the process will start again with previous and potential new bidders.

With regard to the overgrown hedge on the Bird's Estate, the cutting back is the responsibility of the owner.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Alconbury

Alconbury Parish Council

Prepared by: Alison Brown (Clerk & RFO) Date: 21st October 2024

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: Cllr Tracy Gilbert (Chair) Date: 29th October 2024

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 30/09/2024			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2024			70,565.60
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2024 - 30/09/2024			53,569.14
				124,134.74
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2024 - 30/09/2024			28,738.67
A	**Cash in Hand 30/09/2024** (per Cash Book)			**95,396.07**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	30/09/2024	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	30/09/2024	58,695.09	
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	30/09/2024	36,700.98	
				95,396.07
	Less unpresented payments			
				95,396.07
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**95,396.07**
	A = B Checks out OK			

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