Agenda item 0925.68.

The Alconbury Brook Flood Group

A little of what's been happening in August 2025

Autumn is coming-

We get pond digging before the heavy rain comes!

After generous local land-owners have given us the go-ahead for NINE more ponds, the preparatory work starts.

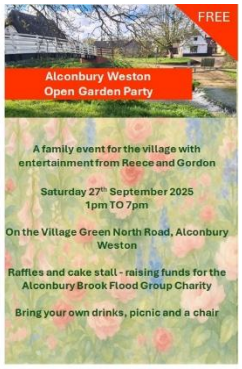
- Test pits to understand the geology of each site (*left* the pond site at Valley Farm, Winwick.
- In most cases, acquiring formal consents from the District and County Councils (currently 4 submitted)
- In one or two cases, Geophysics Archaeology to avoid delays and expensive invasive archaeology later on.
- Baseline ecological surveys by volunteers (thank you!) of existing freshwater life to test water quality, and bird surveys as a test of biodiversity (see item below)

....Autumn is coming-and we get clearing banks and reeds

From the beginning of September, we will be back along the banks of the brook, clearing undergrowth in those places the EA and IDB can't reach. Two teams are already organised for 6th and 13th September, with reed spraying events mid-week.

If you can help on these dates or other times, please contact info@alconburybrookfloodgroup.org

Alconbury Weston Open Garden team are at it again!

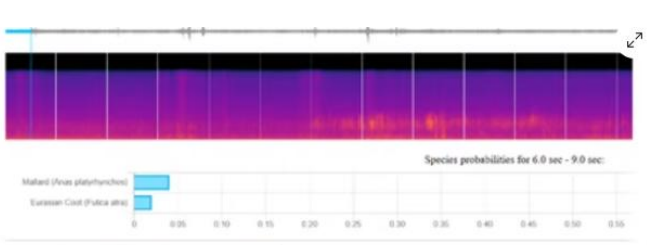


We are incredibly grateful to the team that organised the Open Garden event in the summer. They are now organising another fun fundraiser for the Flood Group on September 27th. Please support this if you can

- Donating raffle prizes
- Put the date in your diary
- Enjoying the event on the day (it's FREE)
- Buying lots of raffle tickets

Clever Bird monitor records and names birds in an area

Our new device records for 5 minutes every hour. Large downloaded files are analysed by an AI cloud programme to name birds present. This is a good way to demonstrate to funders that we mitigate flooding AND increase biodiversity.



Agenda item: 0925.069.

Cllr Ian Gardener – Alconbury & Kimbolton Division, Alconbury Ward.

Monthly Report September 2025

Local Government Reorganisation

The County Council has launched an engagement survey open to residents, businesses, town and parish councils, other public sector bodies and the community and voluntary sector across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This builds upon an initial, shared engagement survey undertaken with the other 6 councils, the results of which will be shared later this week.

The purpose of this second phase engagement survey is to better inform the public and stakeholders and to help raise greater understanding about what Local Government Reorganisation means. This will also seek specific feedback on 1 of the 3 currently preferred options being developed by councils, known as Option A.

Option A is currently the preferred Option of the County Council's Lib Dem Administration and the development of this is being led by this authority. The survey that will be launched also recognises that there are two other Options being developed, but specific views on these proposals are not being invited. Importantly, all three options being developed propose the replacement of the seven current councils with two new unitary councils covering the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between them.

Option A specifically proposes creating two new unitaries, one geographically covering the North (built around the footprints of Huntingdonshire, Fenland and Peterborough City) and one covering the South (built around the footprints of East and South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City). In all three options being developed, the County Council would cease, and its functions and services would be disaggregated into the two new Councils.

However, HDC has now proposed 3 Unitary Councils for Cambridgeshire. With Huntingdonshire becoming a Unitary Council on its own, with Peterborough, Fenland and East Cambs, as another and Cambridge City and South Cambs as the other.

It has been revealed that the Labour Government's Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government failed to undertake its own analysis of the financial implications of the ongoing local government reorganisation, relying instead on analysis by consultants PwC.

Fresh analysis of those figures shows that replacing the two-tier system with 58 new unitary councils with populations as low as 300,000 could end up costing 850 million over 5 years and deliver no long-term savings.

Highways

The New Highways reporting system went live on 22nd September.

The County Council transitioned from Insight to Aurora on Monday 22 September.

The new system known as Aurora introduces several improvements that will enhance the customer experience

- Customer reports are automatically directed to the correct Officer or Team based on geospatial areas and case types, ensuring they are handled by the right person first time.

- All Highways Maintenance Officers are now equipped with tablets, allowing them to inspect defects, raise work orders, and update customers directly while on-site.

- New workflows automatically escalate reports that are not progressed within agreed service level timescales, helping to prevent delays and improve response times.

- Performance dashboards provide Officers and Managers with visibility of all reports in their area, along with upcoming tasks (e.g., scheduled inspections), ensuring no cases are overlooked.
- Officers can send updates directly from the system, meaning customers receive regular progress updates on their reports.

- Reports can be managed dynamically by officers whilst in the field, and customer reports can be loaded into inspection routes so they can be reviewed at the same time.

- The system will task officers will inspecting completed work and identifying any defects. If defects are identified these will be flagged to our contractor and corrected.

From the 1st September the Highways Maintenance Teams are being reorganised across Cambridgeshire. The new head of Highway Maintenance and Management will be Andrew Tatt, reporting to him will be an Area Manager North who will cover Hunts and Fenland. In Hunts there will be a Senior Highways Maintenance Officer, Richard Kingston, who will be Parishes first port of call for Highways issues. He will be assisted by 6 Highways Maintenance Officers who will cover Huntingdonshire.

There will also be a Structures Manager covering bridges etc and a Cyclical Maintenance Manager, who will oversee the Tree Officer, Drainage & Winter Maintenance Officer, Surfacing and pavements Officer and Green Infrastructure Manager, under whom will be the Rights of Way Officer.

Public Health

Free NHS health checks from Healthy You

Residents aged 40 to 74 in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough may be eligible for a free health check.

An NHS health check is a free check-up delivered by health professionals to help lower the risk of developing serious health conditions. They are designed to spot early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes and dementia. The health check takes around 20 to 30 minutes to complete.

You can get a health check at several different locations across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough this September and October - see the full list of locations on the Healthy You website. To book, call 0333 005 0093, text 'healthyu' to 60777, or complete the online form.

Foster Carers in Cambridgeshire

Thinking about fostering? Cambridgeshire is currently seeing a shortage of foster carers, and Cambridgeshire County Council is appealing for residents to come forward to help reduce the numbers of children waiting from homes.
Get in touch to find out more about becoming a foster carer - call 0800 052 0078 or visit the CCC website, Fostering and Adoption page. You can keep up to date with news and events on our Facebook and Instagram channels.

District Council

Regarding HDC's Local Plan update, the Preferred Options Draft of the Local Plan should be out for Consultation at the end of October, early November. The Consultation period will be 6 weeks. Brampton Cross could be included in the Draft.

It is hoped to reopen the Sawtry Swimming Pool in Spring 26, following surveys of the pool structure in June 25, Tender preparation and procurement process during the Summer of 25 and the appointment of a Contractor to undertake the works in Autumn 25.

From the 28 July Huntingdonshire became a Civil Enforcement Area. While this does not change where people can or cannot park, it does mean that powers to enforce existing parking restrictions will be available to HDC. The Council will employ Civil Enforcement Officers who will be able to issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCN's) for offences such as parking on double yellow lines or in disabled parking bays without a valid blue badge. This change is aimed at improving traffic flow, boosting compliance and ensuring parking spaces are used fairly and safely

From August 25, HDC started carrying out enforcement of Civil Parking Enforcement. There was an initial 4-week warning period in place, during which HDC issued warning notices to vehicles observed to be in contravention of on street parking restrictions. This approach is intended to encourage compliance and promote positive parking behaviours. Now that this period has ended, Penalty Charge Notices will be issued to vehicles observed to be in contravention.

The Police will retain powers to enforce dangerous or obstructive parking, parking on pedestrian crossings and zig-zag lines and moving traffic offences such as speeding and driving through no entry zones.

Mike Gildersleeves has been appointed as the new HDC Deputy Chief Executive, he will also continue in his role as Corporate Director for Place

Weekly Food Waste Collections will commence in April 2026; this is a statutory service and must be provided by the Council. New Vehicles have been ordered to undertake the service and are expected to arrive from October 25. Two Caddies for each household will be provided, these are 7ltr and 23ltr Caddies, these will be rolled out to residents from January 26.

The 7ltr grey Caddy is for use in the Kitchen with the grey 23ltr caddy being used to put out your weekly food waste for collection.

The District Council has consulted on CCTV In Licensed Taxi /Private Hire Vehicles. Installing CCTV in licensed vehicles can be a sensitive issue, due to the cost for licensed holders and the possible invasion of privacy. However, CCTV can offer benefits such as increased safety for both drivers and passengers.

Following the consultation a report will be written by compiling the results etc. the report will be reviewed and fully considered by the Licensing & Protection Committee before a decision is taken.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email: ian.gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Cllr Ian Gardener – CCC Alconbury & Kimbolton Division, HDC – Alconbury Ward

Alconbury Parish Council

Prepared by: Alison Brown (Clerk & RFO) Date: 2nd September 2025

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: Cllr Tracy Gilbert (Chair) Date: 27th September 2025

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 31/08/2025			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025			76,745.24
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/08/2025			28,031.09
				104,776.33
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/08/2025			25,915.96
A	**Cash in Hand 31/08/2025** (per Cash Book)			**78,860.37**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	31/08/2025	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	31/08/2025	41,463.51	
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	31/08/2025	37,396.86	
				78,860.37
	Less unpresented payments			
				78,860.37
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**78,860.37**
	A = B Checks out OK			

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