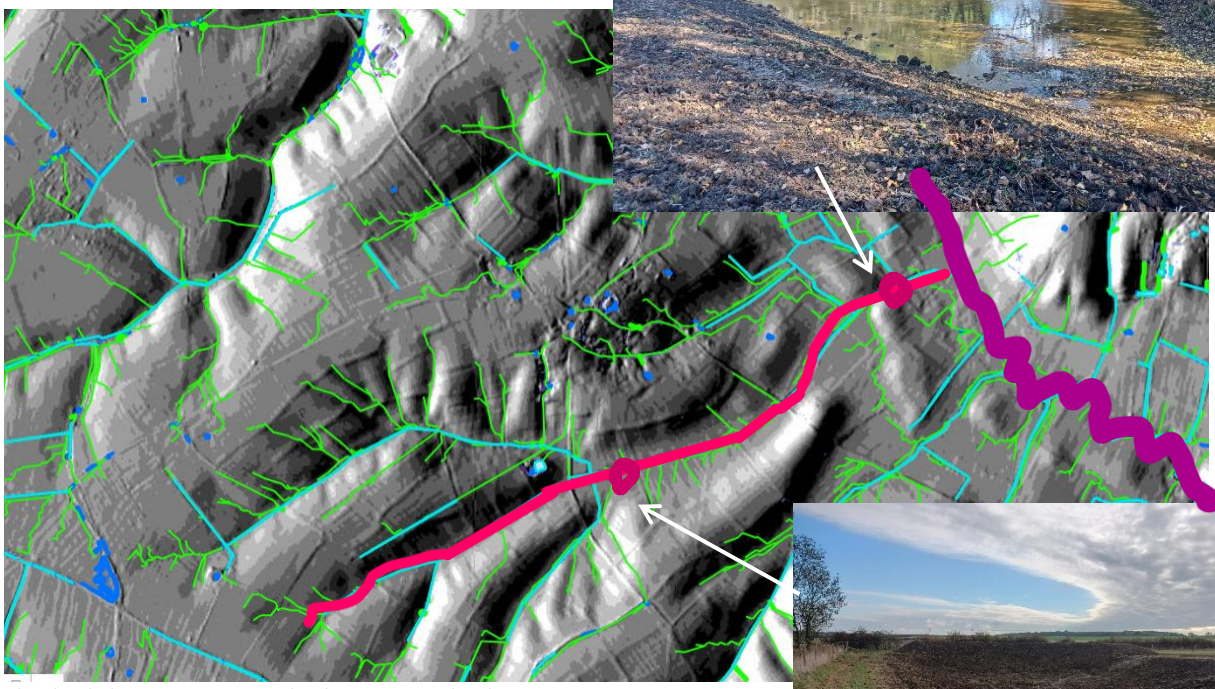
Agenda Item: 1025.086.

The Alconbury Brook Flood Group

A little of what we have been doing during October 2025

Big benefits for Flood Storage and Freshwater Habitat

- After months of planning we have installed two new large ponds on Winwick Brook (pink blobs on Lidar Map)
- Our gratitude to landowners Danny (Valley Farm) and Natasha.
- Thanks also to Mike from the EA and his great help with obtaining LWEG funding.
- Two new substantial log weirs also on Winwick Brook and linked to ponds.
- Thanks to the Alconbury Weston Open Garden team for their fundraising for materials for the weirs.
- Base line ecological monitoring has started at both sites to see how biodiversity in and around the ponds changes.
- Three more projects on Winwick Brook now at the planning stage.



Winwick is in the centre of this Lidar map which is about 5km across . The total catchment area of Winwick Brook is about 10km^2

- Purple line= Alconbury Brook
- Red line = Winwick Brook
- Pink blobs = new ponds

New Farm Experiments take root!

A new experiment has just started on Cowpasture Farm looking at the impact of deep-rooted legumes and grasses on soil. Shortly, we will be treating some test plots with special bacteria which we grow in our lab and which encourage legume root growth. The photo shows a remote telemetry soil moisture sensor on one of the test plots. We can read soil moisture levels using our c-things phone ap.

Many thanks to the Branson family for their meticulous help in setting up trials.

Agenda item: 1025:087

Cllr Ian Gardener – Alconbury & Kimbolton Division

Monthly Report October 25

Local Government Reorganisation

The initial three proposals for Local government reorganisation in Cambridgeshire was to create two unitary authorities, which would undertake all the services currently provided by the County & District Councils and the Peterborough unitary.

The Proposals are:

Proposal A – Unitary 1 - Peterboro City, Huntingdonshire & Fenland

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City, South Cambs and East Cambs

Proposal B - Unitary 1 – Peterboro City, Huntingdonshire, Fenland and East Cambs

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City & South Cambs

Proposal C - Unitary 1 – Peterborough City, Fenland & East Cambs

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City, Huntingdonshire & South Cambs

The two Labour MPs for Peterborough and NW Cambridgeshire have proposed an Option D, which would create 3 Unitary authorities in Cambridgeshire with Huntingdonshire split in two.

Which are- Unitary 1 – Greater Peterborough - Peterborough City & North Hunts including the Alconbury Ward

Unitary 2 - Mid Cambs – Fenland, East Cambs and South Hunts including St Neots

Unitary 3 – Cambridge – Cambridge City & South Cambs

Huntingdonshire is now proposing an Option E which would be again 3 Unitaries with Huntingdonshire as a Unitary Authority in its own right.

Unitary 1 – Huntingdonshire

Unitary 2 – Peterborough City, Fenland & East Cambs

Unitary 3 - Cambridge City & South Cambs

At the Full Council meeting of the County Council, the Lib Dem Administration put forward Option A as its preferred Option. This was passed by the Lib Dem administration who all voted for the motion, including all the Huntingdonshire Lib Dem Councillors and one Huntingdonshire Independent Councillor.

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.

Huntingdonshire District Council are now proposing an Option E, for HDC to become a Unitary Authority in its own right. This will be put to the Full Council on the 19th November

The Seven Authorities in Cambridgeshire must put their proposals to Government by the End of November. Consultation on the proposals will be undertaken between Jan26 and post May 26 elections. Government will then announce its proposal for LGR in Cambridgeshire before the Summer recess, with the necessary legislation being put before Parliament to approve after the Summer 26 recess.

Highways

A New Highways reporting system went live on 22nd September

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

All Highways defects should be reported on the County Councils Highways Report It tool so that all faults are logged and can be processed according to severity.

LHI Bids for 26/27 will open on 10th November 25 and close on 16th January 26. Feasibility studies will be undertaken between Feb and May 26 on the bids. With the panel meetings and decision date to be confirmed.

20mph scheme applications will open on 26 January 26 and close on 27th March 26. With the prioritization programme being undertaken between April and July 26. With the successful schemes going for approval at the October 26 Committee meeting.

District Council

Local Plan

Regarding HDC's Local Plan update, the Preferred Options Draft of the Local Plan will be out for its 6-week Consultation period from the 5th November and will last until 17th December.

There will be briefing sessions for Parishes on Monday 3rd November and Tuesday 11th November from 6.30pm in Pathfinder House. Up to 4 in person representatives from each parish will be allowed at each session. Representatives will be able to join via Zoom for which there will be no limit.

Under the proposed Draft Local Plan Alconbury is classed as a Local Service Village

Under the plan a settlement is defined as a distinct group of buildings that includes 30 or more homes of fixed and permanent construction. Land which relates more to a group of buildings rather than the surrounding countryside is also considered to form part of the built-up area of the settlement.

Under the plan Green and Blue Infrastructure Priority Areas include River Corridors which includes the Alconbury Brook, the plan states the adoption of natural flood management measures across the wider farmed catchments could support improved flood risk management and water quality as some of the water courses are known to be subject to flash flooding e.g. The Alconbury Brook

Brampton Cross is a site within the North Huntingdon Growth Cluster Opportunity, but it is not proposed for allocation within this plan see page 228. However, on the same page the new Local Plan states that Brampton Cross Employment Park could help to assist delivery of the North Huntingdon Growth Cluster.

There are two sites that have been put forward for inclusion within Alconbury, these are Allocation 1 is South of Great North Road, and is for residential development of about 30 Homes. Allocation 2 is East of Globe Lane and is for residential development of about 60 Homes.

CIL Funding Round 2 will open on 27th October 25 and close on 19th December 25 with outcomes being known in March 2026. Funding through this route is orientated towards growth.

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

Alconbury Parish Council

Prepared by: Alison Brown (Clerk & RFO) Date: 15th October 2025

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: Cllr Tracy Gilbert (Chair) Date: 28th October 2025

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 30/09/2025			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025			76,745.24
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2025 - 30/09/2025			28,243.18
				104,988.42
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2025 - 30/09/2025			29,356.05
A	**Cash in Hand 30/09/2025** (per Cash Book)			**75,632.37**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	30/09/2025	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	30/09/2025	39,343.92	
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	30/09/2025	37,608.95	
				76,952.87
	Less unpresented payments			1,320.50
				75,632.37
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**75,632.37**
	A = B Checks out OK			

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