Agenda item: 1225.123.

Alconbury Brook Flood Group

A little of what we have been doing during November 2025

Vinegar Hill- Rainwater Gardens Completed

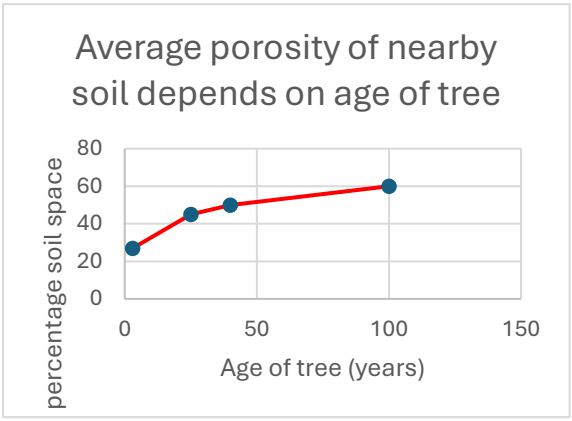
We are delighted that at long last the rainwater gardens at the bottom of Vinegar Hill are complete apart from minor tweaks.

Many thanks to Anglian Water who funded the project and to Breheny for the loan of traffic control equipment.

Also many thanks to Flood Group members and Silver Fern for the great stack of admin that needed to be done prior to a road closure.

We hope that much of the torrent of water that pours down Vinegar Hill after heavy rain will run into the kerbside drains and safely away from people's houses.

Soil around trees provokes some interesting questions



As trees get older they contribute more to soil space (porosity) around their roots.

Creating soil space in many settings is a major Flood Group target

However we have found that for several years (maybe up to 25) after planting soil space seems to be reduced around young trees

Several volunteers and with help from Michael Trolove at Kings Wood collected soil cores from about 30 trees. Within results for each tree age there is a lot of variation so the investigation will need to continue so we can be more confident in the findings. In the meantime, this work has posed some interesting questions, including what is the best way to plant a tree?

Some other news in brief

We were very pleased to have been awarded £4800 by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and a similar amount by the Cambridgeshire County Council Community Watercourse fund.

We presented our work at an OFWAT/Water Inspectorate/LGE on-line conference. We also enjoyed providing a tour of some of our work for visitors from the Wildlife Trust, Great Ouse Blue Connections and farmers from the south of Cambridge.

We had over 100mm of rain during November. We have visited all of the ponds to make sure they are working well. We are very pleased that all of them have worked but most need some work, for example, one needs a leaf guard over a snorkel and another needs two clay-filled sandbags to stop a small leak.

All of the soil space is now used up (mostly by Storm Claudia) and the brook will now be much more responsive to heavy rain. If you live in a flood-prone property, we encourage you to check your flood action plan, your flood boards and your registration with the flood warning service. https://www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings

At our recent meeting, the Flood Group changed its long-term target from 40 ponds to 100, and 3000 hectares of high porosity soil.

Agenda item: 1225.124.

Cllr Ian Gardener

Monthly Report December 2025

Local Government Reorganisation

All the Local authorities in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough have submitted their preferred options to Government regarding Local Government Reorganisation, which has resulted in four options being submitted

The Options put forward to Government are Option A , by the County Council which is for 2 unitaries, made up as follows -

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

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City, South Cambs and East Cambs

Option B has been submitted by Cambridge City, South Cambs and East Cambs, which is again for 2 unitaries, made up of -

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

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City & South Cambs

Option D has been submitted by Peterborough City and Fen; and Fenland District Council; which would split Cambridgeshire & Peterborough into 3 unitary councils which are:

Unitary 1 – Greater Peterborough - Peterborough City & North Hunts including the Kimbolton Ward which includes Catworth

Unitary 2 - Mid Cambs – Fenland, East Cambs and South Hunts including St Neots, Godmanchester, St Ives, Ramsey & Great Staughton Ward

Unitary 3 – Cambridge – Cambridge City & South Cambs

Proposal D sees Huntingdonshire split in two

Option E has been submitted by Huntingdonshire which would also be 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

So now it is Options A, B & D and E that government will have to consider.

Consultation on the 4 proposals will be undertaken between Jan and May 26.

Government will then announce its proposal for LGR in Cambridgeshire/ Peterborough in July 2026. With the necessary legislation being put before Parliament to approve in Autumn 26 rece

With Elections to the new Shadow unitary Authorities taking place in May 27. The new Unitary Authorities will take over running all services on 1 April 28.

BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET PROPOSALS 26-27 to 28-29

Cambridgeshire County Council presented its draft Business Plan and Budget Proposals for 26-27 at the meeting of the Councils Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee on Thursday 11th December.

The Business Planning & Budget Consultation runs until the 7th January 26, which can be found on the CC website. The results of the consultation will be reported to the Strategy Resources and Performance Committee on 29 January 26

Guided Busway

Fencing is being installed to separate the Busway from the Maintenance track/the active travel route that runs alongside the busway. This is a commitment to Health & Safety on the Busway. Travel times on the Busway have increased whilst this work is implemented. People are reminded whilst this work is proceeding they should keep to the maintenance track and only cross at formal crossing points.

Solar powered EV Charging points are now available at the St Ives Park & Ride site. Nine Chargers 22kw chargers have been installed, 8 of which are available for everyone to use with the ninth charger designated for disabled drivers. The chargers use renewable energy produced by solar panels mounted on canopies over the Park & Ride Site.

Highways

Following my meeting with Imran Khan our new LHO and Cllr Bob Johnson on Tuesday 9th December. I can confirm the following –

1. CC are progressing the cutting back of the bushes/hedges on School Lane. To help minimise costs the CC will also look to cut back the hedge behind Coulson Way at the same time.
2. The Structures team to be informed of the damaged Culvert wall next to the Green and associated hole, along with the crack in the retaining wall for the footpath crossing the Alconbury Brook adjacent to the Ford.
3. A Day's White Lining has been ordered for Alconbury, which will concentrate on renewing junctions.
4. Potholes repair outside our Former MP's Home have been ordered along with those in Polecat Lane
5. Footpath sealing of cracks on School Lane is to be undertaken.
6. I have agreed to hold a Quarterly Meeting with our LHO the next being on the 5th March

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.

Highways defects include potholes, blocked gullies, flooding, trees, overgrown hedges, obscured signs etc

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.

The County Council is currently preparing its Asset Management Strategy which will set out the approach to managing and maintaining each asset to secure best value, safety and asset longevity going forward. It is expected to present the final plan to committee in Spring 26 i.e. the March, Highways & Transportation Committee meeting.

Missing out on Pension Credit

In Cambridgeshire up to one in three people who are eligible for Pension Credit are not claiming it. The average Household could get around £186 per month.

Pension Credit is extra money to help with living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income. Claiming Pension Credit can also unlock other benefits including the Winter Fuel Payment, help with NHS dental treatment, glasses, and hospital transport costs.

You can check eligibility and claim Pension Credit on the GOV.UK website.

HDC

HDC Strategic CIL Funding 25/26 Round 2 Closes on Friday 19th December with decisions issued in March 26.

Fly Tipping – I have contacted HDC regarding the removal off fly tipping on the Alconbury Weston Road and the Woolley Road.

National Highways have confirmed their bid for Security Fencing under the A1M viaduct was unsuccessful. They will however apply again next year.

Civil Parking Enforcement Update – December 25.

CPE supports the enforcement of several on street parking offences, which includes parking on Double Yellow Lines, Single Yellow Lines, Loading restrictions, Limited Waiting Bays, Loading Bays, Parking Bays for specific users such as Disabled Parking Bays, Restricted Parking Zones and Controlled Parking Zones.

There are 2 levels of Penalty Charge, £70 for more serious offences such as parking on Double Yellow Lines or £50 for other offences such as parking longer than permitted. Both charges are reduced by 50% if paid within 14 days.

For the 3 months to the end of November 17, 12 On Street Parking Notices and a further 541 Off Street Parking Notices have been issued

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

Alconbury Parish Council

Prepared by: Alison Brown (Clerk & RFO) Date: 10th December 2025

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: Cllr Tracy Gilbert (Chair) Date: 16th December 2025

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 30/11/2025			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025			76,745.24
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2025 - 30/11/2025			49,943.18
				126,688.42
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2025 - 30/11/2025			34,072.27
A	**Cash in Hand 30/11/2025** (per Cash Book)			**92,616.15**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	30/11/2025	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	30/11/2025	55,168.39	
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	30/11/2025	37,608.95	
				92,777.34
	Less unpresented payments			161.19
				92,616.15
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**92,616.15**
	A = B Checks out OK			

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