Agenda item: 0226.152.

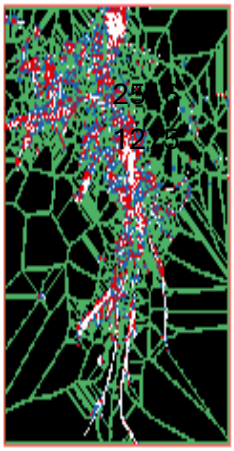
The Alconbury Brook Flood Group

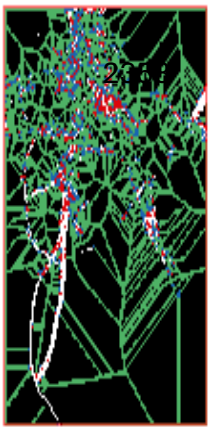
A little of what we have been doing during February 2026.

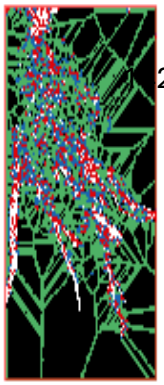
Longbrook Farm ponds renewed

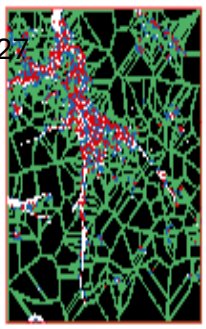
- Two previously silted up ponds restored.
- The map above using 'Scalgo' (software we are trialling) shows the drainage catchment of the pond in the top photograph, about 5ha.
- The pond in the lower photograph needs further work when there is less surface water.
- Many thanks to Dan Pask at Longbrook, Silver Fern Agri for the excavation and LWEG for the funding.

More evidence of larger root surface with phosphite









The photographs show root analysis of plants grown with and without phosph**ite**. In this small trial, the surface areas of the roots from the phosph**ite** treated plants (left) are 2516 and 2358, while the surface areas of the non-treated plants (right) are 1427 and 1275. A larger root surface area increases nutrient uptake and drought resistance and seems to make soil more porous. All plants were grown without phosph**ate** fertiliser.

Numerous winter blockages, several left to clear!

Thank you to local volunteers and the Huntingdon Canoe Club for their great work removing fallen wood from the Brook. There are still at least 3 significant blockages which need to be cleared as soon as conditions allow.

Agenda item: 0226.153.

Cllr Ian Gardener

Monthly Report February 26

I am informed that CCC are again looking at the ownership of the pipes under the village green. I will ask for another meeting to clarify the situation.

Cllr Bob Johnson and I are meeting our LHO on Thursday 5th March at 10am to discuss any Highways issues in the village.

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government has commenced its statutory consultation on LGR in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The consultation runs for 7 weeks until 23.59 on 26 March 2026. Residents and stakeholder organisations such as Parish Councils can submit their views online at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-cambridgeshie-and-peterborough

Free computers, Wi-Fi and internet access to enable people to complete the consultation will be available at Cambridgeshire Libraries, where support will be on hand to help people get online. Printed versions of the consultation will also be made available at all libraries.

Option E is one of the proposals being considered by Government as part of Local Government Reorganisation.

Local Government reorganisation would replace all existing Councils in Cambridgeshire with new Unitary Authorities which would undertake all council services.

Option E was submitted to Government by Huntingdonshire District Council and is one of four options being considered by Government

Option E will create a Unitary Huntingdonshire along with two other Unitaries as set out: -

Unitary 1 – Huntingdonshire

Unitary 2 – Peterborough City, Fenland & East Cambs

Unitary 3 - Cambridge City & South Cambs

The 3 other Options put forward to Government for consultation are as follows -

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

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City, South Cambs and East Cambs

Option B - which is made up for 2 unitaries, -

Unitary 1 – Peterboro City, Huntingdonshire, Fenland and East Cambs

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City & South Cambs

Option D - 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 Alconbury Weston

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

Unitary 3 – Cambridge – Cambridge City & South Cambs

Proposal D sees Huntingdonshire split in two.

The Conservative Group on HDC fully supported Option E

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

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 Business Plan and Budget Proposals for 26-27 at this month's Full Council.

The Councils Budget for 26/27 includes a maximum Council Tax Rise of 4.99% for the CC proportion of your Council Tax, which includes a 2% Social Care increase. The cost therefore for a Band D property is £1,785.42

Within the budget there is an additional £20m of Capital investment on highways maintenance, which will include resurfacing, preventative treatments, upgrades to bridges. Footpaths and cycle routes. This would create a total investment of £58m for 26/27 as recommended by the draft asset management strategy. The Conservative amendment was to put an additional 1 million into pothole repairs, but this was rejected by the administration

Other proposals include a draft lane rental scheme to improve the management and coordination of streetworks, this will be subject to consultation and the decision-making process. This will allow the CC to charge companies for the time that roadworks occupy the highway and will hopefully reduce disruption on County roads. This is planned for implementation in 27/28 along with changes to enforcement of car parking to include Bank Holidays.

The Fire Authorities precept will rise by £4.95 for a Band D Property to £92.16

Highways

With regard to the large number of potholes on our roads, I have organised a meeting with the Highways Maintenance Manager on 2nd March to discuss the issue, to see how repairs can be speeded up.

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

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.

Education

Volunteers are urgently required to hear appeals when children are not offered a place at their preferred school. As a panel member you will hear cases where parents or carers wish to appeal a decision made by CCC or the school. You will listen carefully to all sides, ask questions to fully understand the facts and work with other panel members to reach a fair and lawful decision.

All volunteer panel members will receive training and be fully supported by the Appeals Service.

There is no minimum time commitment required, this depends on how much time the volunteer is prepared to give. Appeals are arranged either for half a day or a full day. Hearings are currently held online using Microsoft Teams.

If you are interested in applying or want to discover more, you should contact clare.cronk@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

District Council

The Liberal Democrat, Independent, Labour & Green Administration on the District Council are proposing a £5 increase to the HDC proportion of the Council Tax taking a Band D property to £170.86 at the Council's Budget setting meeting on 25th February 26

This year's District Council Elections along with the Parish Council elections will go ahead on May 7th, 2026.

HDC's Council Tax Paperless Billing Service has arrived.

The new paperless billing service means that you can log onto the HDC portal and view your Council Tax Bill online instead of receiving a paper bill in the post.

The portal is secure easy to use and will help reduce paper usage and cost.

For more information on the service and to register go to: -

https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-paperless-billing/

If you do not sign up for paperless billing, you will continue to receive your Council Tax Bill through the post as normal.

HDC has completed its litter pick along the northbound side of the A1 between Brampton Hut & Alconbury, following a request from myself.

Delivery of the new food waste bins has commenced to households, with the new service commencing on 30th March 2026. You will receive 2 bins a 7 litre Kitchen Caddy and a 23-litre bin to put out each week for collection. You can use bin liners in your caddies providing they are biodegradable. HDC will not be providing liners for these bins.

The Garden Waste Subscription Service is open for renewals from 01 April 26 to 31 March 27,

The cost per year is £57.50 for one green bin and £30.00 per additional bin up to three additional bins. If you subscribed by Direct Debit last year you won't need to do anything as your subscription will renew automatically. If you paid by card, you would need to renew your subscription for 26-27. If you have not subscribed to the Garden waste service before you are able to sign up for the service from 1 April 26 to 31 March 27.

Local Plan to 2046 update Preferred Options Consultation. The Preferred Options Draft Local Plan consultation closed on 17th December. Comments received from stakeholders and statutory consultees will be processed and reviewed and further at technical evidence will be gathered to inform the Proposed Submission Local Plan.

It is anticipated that the council will consult on the Proposed Local Plan submission in Summer 26. You can view the responses to the Preferred Options Draft Local Plan to 2046 and the Sustainability Appraisal on HDC's Online Consultation Portal.

HDC would like to thank Parish Councils who helped to publicise this consultation with their communities.

Community Litter Picks – If you want to organise a Community Litter Pick to help keep our District Litter Free. The District Council will loan you the equipment necessary i.e. grabbers and bags and pick up the litter that has been collected free of charge.

Cllr Ian Gardener – CCC Alconbury & Kimbolton Division & HDC Alconbury ward including Alconbury.

Alconbury Parish Council

Prepared by: Alison Brown (Clerk& RFO) Date: 10th February 2026

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: Cllr Tracy Gilbert (Chair) Date: 24th February 2026

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 31/01/2026			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025			76,745.24
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/01/2026			50,150.44
				126,895.68
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/01/2026			41,673.42
A	**Cash in Hand 31/01/2026** (per Cash Book)			**85,222.26**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Petty Cash	31/01/2026	0.00	
	Unity Trust Bank Current T1	31/01/2026	48,606.05	
	Unity Trust Bank Instant Access	31/01/2026	37,816.21	
				86,422.26
	Less unpresented payments			1,200.00
				85,222.26
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**85,222.26**
	A = B Checks out OK			

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