Alconbury Parish Council Annual Report 2024/2025:

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I'm happy to report that during the period 2024/2025 the Parish Council (PC) has remained relatively stable. During this period, we welcomed 2 new Parish Councillors: Cllr Trottman and Cllr Brown. This brings our total membership to the maximum number – eleven (11).

Bob Johnson and I were duly elected as Vice Chair and Chair.

This year has seen the PC discuss several key community issues, some of which remain ongoing at the time of going to print:

Our Neighbourhood:
Following our village survey in 2023 we have spent a significant amount of time in 2024/2025 drafting our Neighbourhood Plan which will support the Huntingdonshire District Council Local Plan. We obtained a grant from Locality which allowed us to engage with a planning professional to work closely with us on the plan. With their help we developed our vision for the village: "To steadfastly preserve and enhance the distinctive rural character and unique identity of Alconbury Parish. We are committed to ensuring that every development aligns seamlessly with the village's historical character, maintaining its size and amenities, while proactively advancing flood risk management to safeguard our community for future generations."

Towards the end of this financial year, we have a final draft of the plan and will be undergoing a period of formal consultation with all residents and individuals/companies who have either a business or property in the village.

For those of you who visit our website you will also note that we now have a webpage dedicated to our Neighbourhood Plan. We have included some of our working documents on this page so please take a look

Thanks to everyone in the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party for their dedication with regards to this project.

Village Improvement Projects:

- By the time of print we hope to have installed 2 speed monitoring devices on Rusts Lane and The Great North Road.

- Traffic monitoring on the B1043 continued through 2024. We have provided our results to Cambridgeshire County Council. We are currently waiting or feasible options to reduce traffic on this route.

- We have once again applied for a 20mph speed limit throughout the village, excluding The Great North Road.

- An application has been submitted through the Local Highways Initiative to provide a safe crossing place along The Great North Road.

Emergency Resilience
As part of an initiative funded by the Red Cross Alconbury will hold two (2) Emergency Response Kits at 2 locations within the village. There will also be a notice board and an eight (8) point plan should an emergency occur. Watch out for future updates.

Future project
We will be exploring an upgrade in play equipment at the Bramble End play area. If you have any thoughts or would like to be involved, please let us know.

Finally, I'd like to end by thanking all of the councillors and our Parish Clerk for their continued support and hard work through the year. I'm particularly proud that we have continued to deliver on all of our promises that we made in last year's Annual report and much more on top. I know that we will continue through the next year to make improvements and represent the best interests of our village.

Cllr Tracy Gilbert
Chair, Alconbury Parish Council
May 2025

Annual report from the Responsible Financial Officer 2025

The Parish Council started the financial year with a reserve of £68,389 and the precept received with a very small increase on the previous year was £39,115. The annual spend during 2024/25 was £51,208 which has enabled the Parish Council to carry forward £76,745 into the new financial year on 1st April 2025. As before, Alconbury Parish Council continues to remains financially stable for the year ahead.

The Parish Council continues to fund the shortfall of the costs for the grass cutting which is delegated from, and still largely funded by, Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC).

All the Parish Council's obligations have been fulfilled and grants have been given to:

- Alconbury Over 60's Club: £125 towards 70th Anniversary celebrations
- Royal British Legion: £50: Remembrance wreath
- Alconbury Memorial Hall: £2000 – Refurbishment of new upstairs meeting room
- Alconbury Recreational Field Charity: £2000 - Help for upkeep of sports field

Annual Report from Cllr Ian Gardener District and County Councillor

As your County & District Councillor, over the last 12months I have sat on the following committees on the County Council, Highways & Transportation, Environment & Green Investment, Planning, Communities Social Mobility & Inclusion, and the Fire Authority.

On the District Council I have sat on the following Committees, Overview & Scrutiny Performance & Growth, Licencing and Protection and Development Management (Planning). As well as the Alconbury & Ellington IDB. I am also a HDC nominated Governor on Kimbolton School.

Following this year's County Council Elections on May 1st, the County Council is now Liberal Democrat controlled as they have 31 of the 61 seats. I was returned with a 601 majority on a turnout of 39.5%. The Council's make up is now Lib Dem 31, Conservative 10, Reform 10, Labour 6, Greens 3, and Independents 2.

Last year the County Council was in no overall control and is run by a Joint Administration of Lib Dem, Labour, and Independent Councillors.

The County Council is in the process of inspecting Rights of Way to ensure they are accessible, if there are any that are overgrown in your parish, please let me know, or the officer at Cambs CC Dan Wiggs, so they can be added to the inspections.

The County Council is proposing to review all 20mph schemes after two years.

The District Council is also in No Overall Control and run by an Administration led by Liberal Democrats, including Labour, independents, and Green Councillors. The Administration put up its council Tax by the maximum 5%

This year the Lib Dem Administration including Labour and Independents again voted to increase the County Council proportion of your Council Tax bill by 2.99% and the Adult Social Care Levy by 2% giving a total increase of 4.99%.

At the County Council budget meeting I did propose an amendment for additional funding for Active Travel Routes in Rural areas such as the Tilbrook to Kimbolton & Ellington to Brampton Cycleway's along with additional funding for flood mitigation in rural areas. Unfortunately, this was voted down by the administration by 31 votes to 17 with 2 abstentions.

This year saw additional funding in the Highway budget for weed clearance and gully maintenance, due to the greater costs for removing weeds and repairing damaged surfaces due to the lack of funding in previous years.

This year has again seen changes in the Highways Department at the County Council, the most notable being that we now have a New Highways Officer in Sarah Budd who replaced Karen Southwell.

If you see a fault regarding the highways, be it a pothole, damaged footpaths, blocked gully's etc, please report it on the County Council Website so that it is officially logged.

Under the new reporting tool, you will be able to keep track of your report, i.e. does it meet intervention levels, if so when the repair will take place etc.

Regarding Kimbolton Fire Station, the Fire Authority is now going to look at the needs for the whole Fire Service across the County and Peterborough going forward. The Fire authority wants to ensure that they have a robust plan in place that will provide a better service across the County before they the authority starts to reallocate existing resources and make a final decision on where they come from.

The Fire Authority recognise that following the public meeting regarding the possible closure of Kimbolton Fire Station that several people have come forward and applied to be On- Call Firefighters this has had a positive impact on Kimbolton's availability, which is now up to over 85%

availability. I would therefore urge anyone interested in becoming an On Call Firefighter at Kimbolton to apply.

This year's LHI Bids will be reviewed in June/July with the report going to the October meeting of the Highways and Transportation committee.

The District Council has various Garden Waste Initiatives these being providing Parish Councils with up to 10 Community Bins at a Community Location for resident's use. These would be emptied as part of the fortnightly garden bin collections.

Residents can apply for Subsidised Home Composters at a cost of £10 plus delivery costs directly to Composting. The subsidy applies to a maximum of 2 composters. Please visit Get Composting, enter your postcode, and select Blackwell 220 litre Black Compost Convertor and the discount will be automatically applied.

Parish Councils can also request Green Bins which the PC can allocate to residents who currently maintain HDC Land. Each request will be verified prior to approval.

Free Compost will be provided to Parish Councils. HDC will arrange the delivery of a skip of compost to a designated location within the parish, where the skip will be emptied and the loose compost will be available for residents to collect.

Green Bin Collection Impact assessments ongoing regarding landfill reduction, recycling rates, food waste management, fly tipping and revenue generation versus environmental costs.

From April 2026 each household will be provided with new food waste caddies (2) to ensure food waste is collected weekly.

HDC will be undertaking Civil Parking Enforcement, the target implementation date is August 26

With regards to HDC Planning – Planning enforcement continues to face significant challenges due to increased caseload, resource limitations etc

The New HDC Local Plan faces complications due to Revised Government Targets, HDC entering "tilted balance" status due to insufficient 5-year housing supply, due to the Governments new targets. This could result in development outside existing and emerging local plans. It is hoped with the New local plan this will be resolved.

The Combined Authority has replaced the Ting Demand Responsive Transport Scheme in November with the Tiger Demand Responsive Transport scheme.

The key changes to the scheme are that travel will be between designated virtual bus stops found on the interactive map on the company's website.

A new telephone number for bookings which is 01480 595440 and that bookings can be made up to 48 hrs in advance. Payment is made by Credit or Debit card at the time of booking as Drivers cannot accept cash or card payments.

The service operates Monday to Saturday 06.30am to 07.00pm. With no service on Sundays on Bank Holidays.

The New Labour Government has decided to implement Local Government reorganisation. Which in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will see the abolition of District Councils including Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council. Which are likely to be replaced by possibly 2 Unitary Authorities which would be responsible for all Services currently undertaken by the County and District Councils. The Councils must provide Government with their draft proposals by the end of March with their final proposal by the end of November. If the Councils cannot agree then the Government will determine the boundaries of the New Authorities.

It is proposed that the New Authorities will come into existence in May 2027 as Shadow Authorities, following elections in that year to the new authorities. With the existing District and County Councils being abolished in May 2028 when the New Authorities would take over.

The 2026 HDC Elections may be cancelled the final decision is expect no later than February 2026.

Additional responsibilities will be given to the Mayor, including Strategic Planning. The proposal will also affect the Fire and Police Authorities as I get more information, I will let you know.

Finally, I would like to thank the Parish Council for their support over the last twelve months and to say that it has been an honour to represent you on the County & District Councils.

Cllr Ian Gardener
County Councillor Alconbury & Kimbolton Division
District Councillor Alconbury Ward