

MakeNews



Community celebrates Coronation

Co-op on track for Summer opening at The Glade

Female students inspired to 'Make your Mark'

Blooming lovely! Open Gardens event inspires neighbours

Coming soon: extended AW1 bus route



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Hello and welcome to our Summer 2023 newsletter, which provides an update on the latest developments at Alconbury Weald.

Our first local centre, The Glade, is taking shape with the Co-op on track for a Summer opening. This is an important milestone in delivering the services and facilities residents needs as the development grows, and builds on the facilities within the Club (the gym and library), The Pavilion and Bohemia bar/bistro. We continue to listen to and work with residents to ensure the best possible development for everyone living at Alconbury Weald.

In this edition of Make|News, we also report back on the Quality of Life survey. This survey — undertaken independently by the Quality of Life Foundation — is part of our commitment to supporting good health and active lifestyles as part of the development, and is part of Alconbury Weald's and Urban&Civic's Sustainability Framework commitments. It also provides rich feedback on a range of issues that, working with residents, will help us continue to evolve our design, delivery and activation of future development.

Creating homes in nature is a priority at Alconbury Weald and we are working to support a wide range of wildlife through new planting and biodiversity enhancements. The community has also been playing their part, with local families helping plant the new woodland to celebrate the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, which was formally opened during King Charles III's Coronation weekend.

We've also been supporting the next generation and recently held a Make Your Mark event for female students in Huntingdonshire to highlight the wide range of career paths and opportunities for young women in the world of development, construction, property and the built environment.

Our business community is thriving, with the first phase of the Campus nearing completion: over 1 million sq ft of commercial space has been developed across eight buildings and is home to 12 companies employing over 1,000 staff. In addition, work is progressing at pace on Magpas Air Ambulance's purpose-built airbase and headquarters.

The local community at Alconbury Weald is also going from strength to strength, with an active Community Association supporting a range of events throughout the year including the recent Coronation weekend celebrations and Open Garden event, and the forthcoming Scarecrow Festival.

We hope you find this edition of our newsletter interesting and informative. If you have any queries, or have any ideas for future editions, please let me know.

With very best wishes
Becca



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The Glade

The Glade, the first local centre at Alconbury Weald, will provide a Co-op and a future nursery, as well as a public square and open space for events. The Glade will add to the existing community hub on the development's main Boulevard, alongside The Unit Fitness gym, Bohemia's café and bistro, the community library, cricket pitch and Pavilion community centre.

Co-op on track for Summer opening
Central Co-op, which is launching its new store in Alconbury Weald this Summer, will feature InPost parcel delivery lockers and a variety of ranges to suit all tastes, including Food to Go and Meal Deals, Fairtrade goods, a fresh bakery, COOK frozen ranges and Malawi Partnership products, with a proportion from the sale of these products supporting the initiative and strengthening trading capacity in Malawi. There will also be an Insomnia Coffee machine for those grabbing a coffee on the run, as well as a free water refill station provided in store.

Green features of the store include electric charging points in the car park and Smartcool refrigeration systems in store, saving 25% in terms of kWh consumption.

A Central England Co-op spokesperson said: "This is all part of Central Co-op's mission to create a sustainable Society for all, which includes wider investment in solar panels via a partnership with Sol PV, along with additional partnerships like Too Good To Go, seeing food sold at a reduced price at the end of the day to prevent it being wasted.

"Members can enjoy extra savings in store or via the Central Co-op Membership App. Members can use the App to find their nearest store, funeral home or florist, and access useful FAQs along with the Membership Blog to see what Member events are happening across the Society.

"Central Co-op is honoured to become a part of this community and will continue to embrace it with events as the year goes on, welcoming feedback from local customers and Members."

The new store will create 25 new jobs including a store manager, three team leaders, two in the bakery and 19 customer services assistants. Vacancies can be found at www.careers.coop/vacancies/

The Co-op will complement Alconbury Weald's local store, Swynford Stores, which sits at the heart of the play areas and parks around the development's first Primary School, Ermine Street Church Academy.

Rebecca Britton, Communities and Partnerships from Urban&Civic said: "The Glade coming forward is an important milestone for Alconbury Weald and will provide the heart of the first phase of the development.

"Alongside the Co-op, we're particularly excited about the public square and green spaces in The Glade and will continue to work with partners and residents to bring forward the great ideas received during the consultations around pop-up markets, community events and seasonal activities. We're continuing to work with potential providers to start work on the future nursery as soon as possible, with the aspiration of a facility opening in the next 18-24 months."





Archaeologists find Iron Age roundhouses at Grange Farm

Grange Farm has many layers of history from connections to the Roman road of Ermine Street and nearby settlements and burial mounds, to medieval monuments including the nationally important remains of a moated enclosure at Prestley Wood.

The hidden archaeology of the farmland has been further explored in advance of work to create the Southern Gateway — a link road to connect Alconbury Weald to the A141. The route will improve connectivity with the wider area, take traffic away from The Stukeleys, and provide access to the new country park. Oxford Archaeology, who carried out initial survey work and trial trenching of the site back in 2019, returned to the site to work on an excavation focused on part of an Iron Age settlement identified during its previous investigations.

The team used mechanical diggers to remove topsoil and subsoil, so that the underlying archaeological features could be painstakingly dug by hand. These revealed two Iron Age roundhouses, one within a complex of ditches believed to have been used as enclosures for livestock.

One of the roundhouses has been fully excavated by a team of three archaeologists working methodically to reveal what remains of the structure after two thousand years in the ground. Roundhouses are often visible in the landscape as a ring ditch, with a break to the south or south-east marking the location of the doorway, situated to make best use of the natural sunlight and to avoid cold northerly winds entering the house. The purpose of the ring ditch is debated but is often thought to have acted as a drip gully to collect rainwater falling from the roof — an early form of guttering.

Interestingly, around the edge of the area, archaeologists uncovered a series of later Romano-British cultivation rows; row after row of linear ditches that were part of an agricultural planting system, showing a shift in use from domestic settlement to an arable landscape within the space of a few hundred years.

Andrew Greef, Senior Project Manager at Oxford Archaeology said: “The previous investigations at Grange Farm identified a Middle to Late Iron Age settlement (a small farmstead) as well as a probable Early Romano-British field system. It has been fascinating to work on the latest excavation site, learn more about how the land was used thousands of years ago and recover artefacts and evidence to help understand how people would have lived in this corner of Cambridgeshire over the centuries.”

Archaeology ‘show and tell’

Archaeologists who worked on the excavation at Grange Farm gave a talk to the Stukeleys Heritage Group, which was attended by over 50 local residents, and delivered a series of hands-on workshops to four classes of children at Ermine Street Church Academy.

The talks included an insight into the work of an archaeologist and the process of excavating and analysing the finds, as well as sharing the recent findings of Iron Age roundhouses at Grange Farm.

It was great to be able to give residents a brief glimpse into what life would have been like here over 2,000 years ago. The children were fascinated by the dig site and what we have found so far; with some budding young archaeologists asking lots of questions about what is involved before, during and after a dig.

Chris Thatcher Project Manager, Oxford Archaeology

Evidence found of later Roman settlement

Archaeologists have also found evidence of a later Roman settlement in the middle of the former airfield with finds including coins, a small amount of metalwork, a tiny bead made from a fossil that is thought to have been used in a necklace or bracelet, and pottery in good condition, which suggests it had not moved far from where it was used. They also discovered ditches indicating settlement boundaries, possible evidence of roundhouses and animal bones with butchery marks.

Over 100 people donned their wellies to attend four archaeological ‘show and tell’ sessions at Oxford Archaeology’s dig site, where they were able to meet the archaeologists, find out how a dig site operates and see some of the evidence discovered so far.

Chris Thatcher, project manager at Oxford Archaeology, said: “It’s fantastic to find evidence of a settlement spanning the Late Iron Age into later Roman period, as this shows continuity of people living and working here for hundreds of years. By this stage, they would also have been travelling across the landscape and trading with other local settlements as well as having established trade routes with the wider area.

“Natalie Leigh Brown, Community Development Lead at Alconbury Weald, said: “Alconbury Weald has a fascinating heritage — from its very earliest settlers through to its more recent military history — and events that help bring the past to life always prove popular with the local community and connect them to the history around them.

“This rich heritage is stitched into the new development; from street names and park designs to Watch Office Green and events such as Heritage Open Days. The next phase of Alconbury Weald will include a heritage area focused on the listed Cold War buildings and we continue to work with the Alconbury Weald Heritage Group to ensure each layer of history is captured within the future plans and that it continues to engage the new community and our neighbours.”

Previous archaeological excavations have revealed that Alconbury Weald has been home for many people through the millennia, from evidence of Prehistoric settlement and Iron Age roundhouses through to Roman artefacts and Medieval remains. The latest finds, which will be on display at Alconbury Weald’s Heritage Open Day on 9 September, have added another piece to the jigsaw of the site’s past.



Quality of Life

Urban&Civic, Alconbury Weald master developer, is committed to listening to and working with residents to ensure the best possible development for everyone living here. As part of a long-term commitment to support positive health and wellbeing among residents of the places it creates, Urban&Civic is working with the Quality of Life Foundation to take regular surveys that have been designed to assess the quality of life of residents who take part, and to help evolve the design and layout, amenities and activities to respond to feedback.

Here we set out some of the key findings, alongside the actions being taken to respond to them.

The survey revealed that residents like living in Alconbury Weald. 89% of respondents reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their local area, citing the abundant open and green spaces, the spaciousness of the public realm and homes, as well as the strong sense of community as particular aspects they liked.

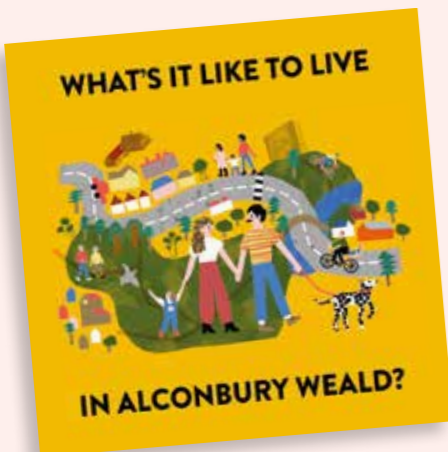
Aspects that residents disliked included inconsiderate parking and lack of amenities (particularly for teenagers and adults) as well as wanting stronger transport links. Some residents felt that the ongoing building work was disruptive but acknowledged that it was understandable as the development grows.

A summary of the survey results has been categorised against the six key themes in the Quality of Life Framework and a response provided by the Urban&Civic team.



“Very open, clean space and kind people around, as well as a lovely family vibe area with lots of parks and all the houses look amazing!”

“Love the parks and the way the history has been thought out. It has a lot of character for a new build town and the variation in buildings and neighbourhoods is great. Love the green space!!”



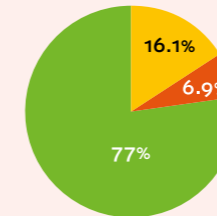
1 Control

Most Alconbury Weald residents saw themselves living in the area for the long term (five years or more) and felt that the cost of living, including bills, was affordable. They also had a strong sense of personal safety in their local area. Many residents would like more influence over decisions affecting Alconbury Weald, in particular the types of local services and facilities coming forward.

Control

At this present moment, do you see yourself living in Alconbury Weald long-term (for five years or more)?

- 77% Yes
- 6.9% No
- 16.1% Not sure



Actions taken forward: The team has reviewed its Community Engagement Strategy to ensure an inclusive and ongoing approach to engaging residents in local decision-making processes – in person and online – and will keep this under review. Key highlights since the survey include:

- Consultations on The Glade and the next key phase of Alconbury Weald.
- Monthly Community Association meetings.
- Quarterly Resident Forum meetings.
- Facebook polls.



2 Health

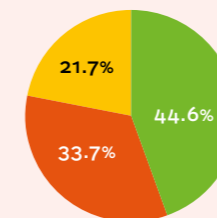
93% of Alconbury Weald residents were satisfied or very satisfied with their homes, which most felt contributed positively to their wellbeing. Residents also felt that there is plenty for leisure and relaxation in Alconbury Weald and said the local air quality was good.

It was felt there is room for improvement in the quantity and quality of local exercise and sports facilities, including gym facilities, football pitches, more safe walking and cycling routes, as well as more exercise classes for teenagers and older people.

Health

Are you satisfied with the quality of exercise and sports facilities in your neighbourhood?

- 44.6% Yes
- 33.7% No
- 21.7% Not sure



Actions taken forward: Since the survey, there are more fitness classes at The Pavilion, including a class specifically aimed at more mature residents; Sawtry Cricket Club has also currently expanded to include Alconbury Weald; new walking and cycling routes have opened up – with more planned.

The team is also currently undertaking technical work on a future hub of sports pitches, which will come forward in the next key phase of the development. Further community engagement on these plans will follow in the coming months.



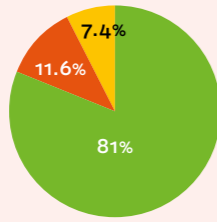
3 Nature

Alconbury Weald has abundant and varied types of green spaces, with which residents were overwhelmingly satisfied. In fact, residents said that the plentiful green spaces gave Alconbury Weald a distinctive character and value, being able to easily connect with nature. Some residents would like more information about and involvement in decisions about the green spaces.

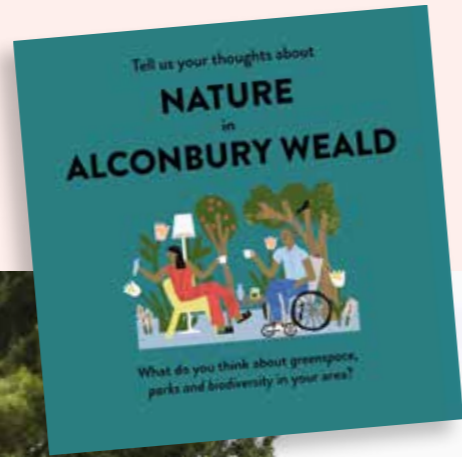
Nature

Are you happy with the standard of green space in your area?

- 81% Yes
- 11.6% No
- 7.4% Not sure



Actions taken forward: Early investment in green space and nature has been a key priority from the outset and this will continue to be prioritised as the development progresses. As well as additional information about the biodiversity features within the green spaces being provided by the ecology and landscape team, the community team is developing opportunities for people to have their say on the many additional green features coming forward around Alconbury Weald; from involvement in the recent allotment and community garden design sessions, to future engagement on the design and features of both Runway Park and the country park – due to take place later this year.



4 Wonder

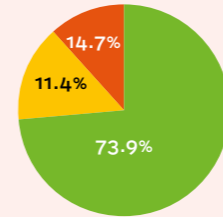
According to residents, Alconbury Weald's history as a Royal Air Force base and its abundant green spaces add character, and make it a unique and special place to live. That said, there was a clear demand for improved intergenerational provision at Alconbury Weald. Residents felt that the area was a great place for young families – because many of the parks are designed for children – but that there are not enough facilities for teenagers, adults and older people.

Actions taken forward: Since the survey, new activities developed have included adult coffee mornings in the library, the launch of a youth group and a wide range of classes in The Pavilion for adults, with a specific group, Healthy4Living, aimed at more mature residents. Consultation with young people is underway about the next phase of Garland Park to ensure it provides external meeting space for young people, alongside the growing youth group.

Wonder

Does Alconbury Weald feel to you like it has a special or unique character?

- 73.9% Yes
- 11.4% No
- 14.7% Not sure



“...the planning of the areas outside is superb. Paths to walk, ponds to sit and reflect or bird watch or just relax. Lots of trees and green areas and wildflowers managed for the insects. Found the park areas planted with more unusual plants than normal. It's so nice having lots of benches to sit on along your walks and lots of bins provided too.”

5 Movement

The vision for Alconbury Weald as it rolls out is to be sustainably connected to help people live with a low carbon footprint. The survey showed most residents own cars and rely on driving to get around. They felt they could safely walk and cycle in Alconbury Weald but would like safer cycle routes to Huntingdon, Peterborough and other surrounding towns. Residents also wanted improved bus and train links.



Actions taken forward: The AW1 bus service was launched in January 2021, giving residents and those working at the Campus an additional, more frequent bus service alongside the 904, with the service times regularly reviewed. The team has also been sharing data from the annual Travel Survey with Stagecoach and Dews Coaches (who run the AW1) to explore additional services, which can then be put to the local authority partners Urban&Civic work with, to explore additional options.

The team also continue to progress the cycle route through Grange Farm to Huntingdon, which is part of the planned southern access to the development, and work should start later this year, alongside work with Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to provide a cycle route along Ermine Street.

The Travel Survey and travel monitoring, undertaken annually in October, are key informers of the future travel plans. The team ask everyone to take part and help evolve the right plans, support and incentives, which enable people to have robust travel options and make good sustainable travel choices.



6 Belonging

There is a strong sense of community at Alconbury Weald, with residents likely to stop and talk to people in their neighbourhood. Alconbury Weald residents are also nearly twice as likely as the average for England and Wales to be involved in local community projects.

While residents largely felt that they had access to everything they need at Alconbury Weald, including quality community spaces and facilities, they did reiterate the need for more shops, exercise and sports facilities, restaurants and a pub. Residents appreciated the local cafe, Bohemia, but also wanted a wider range of cafes and restaurants within walking distance of their homes.

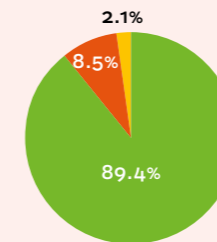
Actions taken forward: The team has been working to support the Community Association to hold events and lead projects alongside the communities team to ensure they meet residents needs and interests. It has been great to see this grow during the last 12 months. The events for the Coronation of King Charles III, Open Gardens and the Scarecrow Festival at Alconbury Weald are all great examples of this.

Many of the other facilities featured in comments will be coming forward within the Glade and with more permanence in the main town centre hub in the next phase of development. In the meantime, the communities team has been working with the wider team to explore additional 'pop-up' events and amenities, which can work alongside these long-term plans as they develop. The increased engagement with residents will help refine and shape these over future months.

Belonging

Are you satisfied with the design of your neighbourhood?

- 89.4% Yes
- 8.5% No
- 2.1% Not sure





Meet the

Housebuilders are now in place to take forward all the rest of the homes within the first phase of Alconbury Weald: offering stylish new homes — and different ways to buy them — within safe, walkable and beautifully landscaped settings.

Housebuilder

Initiative



Using eco-friendly building methods, with the most up-to-date insulation, energy-efficient features and sustainably sourced timber for window frames, **Hopkins Homes** draw on traditional features and contemporary interior design.

- Move Easy
- Part Exchange
- Part Exchange Plus



Redrow's award-winning Heritage Collection is inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement. Homes reflect traditional features and craftsmanship on the outside, with vibrant street scenes, as well as high end interiors with open plan living spaces planned around the kitchen, at the heart of the home.

- Deposit Unlock
- Prime Position
- Recommend a Friend
- Shared Ownership



Campbell Buchanan George develop bespoke homes tailored to the space and place around them. Driven by values of quality, integrity, responsibility and passion, the team create low energy, sustainable homes using ethically sourced materials and environmentally sound processes.

- Shared Ownership



With a strong focus on quality materials, traditional design, and bespoke options for the interior of your homes, **Morris** has developed a range of sustainability features, to provide low impact homes set within a strong natural setting.

- Deposit Unlock
- Trade Up
- Great Start
- Smooth Move



Every **Crest Nicholson** home has been architecturally designed to maximise space and create light filled interiors, with a variety of complementary and highly individual external finishes, providing exemplary levels of comfort and energy efficiency.

- Deposit Unlock
- Part Exchange
- Smooth Move



David Wilson Homes is launching its new homes at Alconbury Weald in late Summer/Autumn. Visit the Showhome to find out more about the three, four and five bedroom homes coming soon.

- Armed Forces Deposit
- Deposit Unlock
- Key Worker Deposit
- Movemaker
- Part Exchange

Please check with the individual housebuilders for terms and conditions relating to the listed initiatives and latest availability.

Affordable housing at Alconbury Weald is being delivered by **Cross Keys, Longhurst Group** and **Rentplus** with a range of options available including shared ownership, affordable rent and rent to buy. To find out more, visit www.alconbury-weald.co.uk/living/meet-housebuilders.

housebuilders



Campbell Buchanan George
07717 574517
Senliz Road, Alconbury Weald
Huntingdon PE28 4HX



Hopkins Homes
01480 435108
Geldart Way, Alconbury Weald
Huntingdon PE28 4LZ



Crest Nicholson
01480 710328
Heathcote Crescent
Alconbury Weald PE28 4YE



Barratt Homes
Launching late 2024/early 2025



David Wilson Homes
0333 355 8485
Senliz Road, Alconbury Weald
Huntingdon PE28 4LY



Redrow
01480 710123
Senliz Road, Alconbury Weald
Huntingdon PE28 4LY



Morris Homes
07484 040412
142-146 Senliz Road, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon PE28 4FR

Jemima House Nursery

Based in Ermine Street Church Academy, Jemima House Day Nursery offers flexible childcare (from birth to five years old) in a well-equipped, safe and stimulating environment that provides a wealth of learning opportunities.

Beverley Taylor-Carson, Nursery Director, said: “Following a successful recruitment drive, Jemima House has a fantastic team and is going from strength to strength. New staff include a full-time chef, so we’re able to provide the children with freshly prepared meals each day and are delighted to have retained top marks — five out of five — in our environmental health review.”

“The children in our care continue to thrive and it is lovely to see many of our former charges who have transitioned to ‘big’ school, as they spread their wings at Ermine Street Church Academy.”

There is always lots going on at the Nursery and a highlight for the children this term has been taking it in turns to go to the mobile library and choose books for the nursery to share, and they are waiting with eager anticipation to see their caterpillars transform into butterflies. The older children have also been enjoying fortnightly sessions with Rugby Tots, who teach them physical skills whilst also learning about colours, numbers and shapes as part of the activities.

Tracey James, Nursery Manager, said: “Last year was fantastic, and a personal highlight has been our involvement with the Maths Champion research project being carried out by York University. We were given support and training to help increase the maths skills of all the children, which we’ll be applying to future learning, and it was fascinating to watch their development.”

“A highlight from this year has been the fairy door trail; the children really enjoyed hunting for the fairy doors and were especially delighted to find the ones they had decorated. We also held a street party to celebrate the Coronation and raise funds for local NHS charity, Head to Toe. Our bake sale proved very popular, with contributions from staff and parents, and the children coloured in themed coronation pictures to display in their windows. The Scarecrow Festival was also lots of fun last year and the children are already talking about the scarecrow they want to build and are looking forward to seeing all the amazing scarecrows around Alconbury Weald this year.”



To find out more about the nursery, call 01480 276513, visit www.jemima-house.co.uk, or email Tracey at manager@jemima-house.co.uk

Ermine Street Church Academy

Sponsored by the Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust (DEMAT), in partnership with the Methodist Family of Schools, Ermine Street Church Academy (ESCA) is a combination of one and two-form entry primary school that continues to grow; with nursery provision by Jemima House Day Nursery and wrap around care provision by Premier Education at The Hangar Club.

Inspired by the site's heritage as a military airbase, the school's innovative building was designed in the shape of an aircraft propeller, with three separate wings creating distinct internal zones for different key stages and a double-height vaulted roof assembly hall forms the central core area of the building. Classes are also named after aircraft that were based at the airfield, including Thunderbolt, Phantom, Liberator and Hercules.

It has been seven years since Alconbury Weald's first primary school opened its doors back in 2016 and Ayellet McDonnell recently took over as Headteacher, having shared the role as Co-headteacher last year.

Tenacious learners

Children in Reception to 6 are continuing strongly as the new academic year progresses, with a renewed enthusiasm for learning. Pupils have been learning about Animals and their Needs; The British Isles; Portraits and Self Portraits; The French Revolution; William Morris and The Cold War to name a few topics. They have encountered a range of high-level text to promote love for reading and develop both early reading skills and good level of understanding of text. Curriculum overviews detailing more of these are available on the school's website.

Book swaps

Friends of ESCA organised a book drive to stock the 'book nook' sheds at the entrance of the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds. The children can bring any unwanted children's book from home to swap for a book from the sheds, so that everyone has access to free books to read for pleasure from a stock that is continually changing.



Celebrating success

To help celebrate the achievements of talented pupils, at Friday morning assemblies Ethos Champion Certificates are presented and a new award — the headteacher's cup — is given to an exceptional pupil who shows the ESCA ethos through all that they do. He or she can take the cup home until the following Thursday and have their photo displayed in the hall.

Ayellet McDonnell said: “The children made a great start to the academic year and have been having lots of fun immersing themselves in our knowledge-rich, broad curriculum receiving high quality lessons from our fantastic teachers and support staff.

“We enjoyed lots of events and activities in the run up to Easter, including the Mother Day's event organised by Friends of ESCA and the Easter assembly. We are looking forward to the extra-curricular activities planned for the Summer term and the Summer Fete.”

‘Make Your Mark’ at Alconbury Weald

Over 80 female students from secondary schools across Huntingdonshire visited Alconbury Weald in March for an event designed to highlight the wide range of career paths and opportunities in the world of development, construction, property and the built environment.



It is great to be able to inspire these young women and introduce them to the exciting range of careers available within the development industry.

Natalie Leigh-Brown Community Development Lead, Urban&Civic

The Make Your Mark event was designed to inspire young women about the careers on their doorstep, and demonstrate the practical applications of some of the subjects they study in careers within the development industry. It demonstrated some of the diverse roles and skills needed to create a sustainable new place.

The students involved were from Year 9 at St Ivo Academy, Hinchingsbrooke School, Sawtry Village Academy and St Peter's School and were given an introduction and tour of the development including the future phases, which have not yet started. They also had the chance to have a go at working through all the things you need to think about in creating attractive, healthy and sustainable places to live. The exercise to design their own new community used a bespoke software platform that helped them consider everything from design and planning as well as sustainability and ecology, to delivering community facilities, working with listed buildings and planning for climate change.

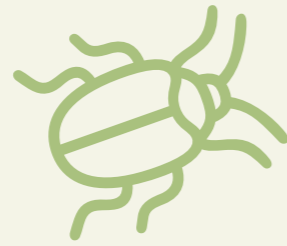
At the event, the students were also given the opportunity to help shape the next park areas coming forward at Alconbury Weald and were encouraged to have an active voice in the development of spaces around them. Lots of great ideas were shared around accessible spaces to meet up and hang out; the textures, sounds and smells; use of water as features; the role of lighting; whether people wanted access to technology or an escape from it; and how height and design can ensure people feel safer.



Natalie Leigh Brown, Community Development Lead at Urban&Civic, worked with the schools to develop the agenda: "It is vital that young people have a chance to shape the way the world works around them. The way things like parks and green spaces, or walking routes are designed can play a huge role in how safe people feel and therefore how they use those spaces. This is especially true for girls and will impact on where they meet their friends and how they see and interact with the world around them."

The event was supported by organisations who are part of the development's design team including planners David Lock Associates, landscape and ecology experts Bradley Murphy Design and designers of bespoke playground equipment Jupiter Play. It was also supported by the charity Make Space for Girls that supports the role of women and girls in designing the world around them.

Amber Walker, careers officer at St Peter's, said: "This was an absolutely fabulous event! Such an incredible, interesting and inspiring insight into careers these girls could go into when they are older. They were absolutely buzzing on the way home; they all want to move and work in Alconbury Weald and are already asking if we can organise another trip!"



Inspired by the BBC's *Spring* and *Autumn Watch*, the team has been working with the Alconbury Weald ecologists to provide more information about the work in place to support some of the development's hero species, and to help you spot them while you are out and about.

Birds	Support in place Nest boxes and swift bricks have been installed on a number of homes, alongside boxes and wildlife features installed in green spaces.	Species to look out for Starling, house sparrow, robin, dunnock, pied wagtail, swallow, swift, coot, moorhen, willow warbler and reed bunting.	Where to look for them Found throughout the first phase of Alconbury Weald.
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Pondlife	The ponds at Alconbury Weald are home to many different species of amphibians, insects and plants, and attract lots of different species of birds and bats.	Four-spotted chaser dragonflies are predominantly brown in colour with yellow spots along either side of the body and dark spots along the wingtips. They typically grow to a length of 39–48mm and can be seen between April and October.	See what you can spot at Carnaile ponds!
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Yellow Iris is often found at the edges of ponds, fens, marshes and wet woodlands. They typically grow to a height of 150cm, flowering between May and August. The flowers attract bees, providing an invaluable source of nectar.



Bats	Bat boxes have been installed and foraging areas established, which include waterbodies and scrub/rough grass areas for food. There is restricted or zero lighting in these areas to avoid disturbance to bat movement and foraging.	Pipistrelle, barbastelle, Leisler's bat, brown long eared and noctule bat.	Keep an eye out along Somning Way and the south eastern boundary of the development, as you might be able to see them at dusk.
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Did you know?
Common pipistrelle bats can easily eat 3,000 insects in a single night and are so small that they could fit into a matchbox.

Insects	Hibernacula — log, grass and other habitat piles — are in key locations to support bugs and reptiles with shelter and breeding areas. Residents are also encouraged to provide these in their gardens. Insects are an important part of eco-system, providing food to bats, bird and other predators.	For caterpillars, solitary bees, yellow faced bees and variegated ladybirds.	
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Wildflower areas at Alconbury Weald



	Support in place Wildflower areas provide food for insects, including some of our hero pollinators, who in turn help plants to thrive. These areas are left untouched during spring/summer to give the flowers a chance to grow, bloom and seed.	Species to look out for Wildflowers: yarrow, ribwort plantain, meadow buttercup, ox eye daisy, common sorrel and bird's foot trefoil. Butterfly species: marbled white, small skipper, common blue, holly blue, peacock, small tortoiseshell, orange tip, gatekeeper, meadow brown, ringlet, small white and large white.	Where to look for them There are areas of wildflowers throughout Alconbury Weald, including around the Boulevard verges, entrance to Swynford Road, Carnaile Pond gateway and along Somning Way.
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New woodland celebrates Queen Elizabeth II's reign

Following lots of great royal-themed suggestions and a community poll, the woodland block has been named *Elizabeth Walk*. Elizabeth Walk, which will link Senliz Road to the future Runway Park, will form part of the Queen's Jubilee canopy.

The trees — including 70 planted by the community last November in honour to the Queen's 70th anniversary — include apple, pear and cherry trees which, as they mature and bear fruit, will become an edible landscape route for the whole community to enjoy.



The Coronation weekend saw the formal opening of a new community woodland area with another royal link.



The first allotments at Swynford Road are flourishing and have a waiting list, so we are bringing these next allotments forward, and also responding to asks from the community for shared space for growing and engaging with nature.

Natalie Leigh-Brown Community Development Lead, Urban&Civic

New allotments and community garden

The community team is working with environmental charity partners Groundwork East to design and deliver new allotments and a community garden coming forward at Alconbury Weald next year.

The new area has been designed around traditional allotments, with additional space for community gardening and growing projects. The original concept plans included a roofed pergola for community meetings and workshops, a children's gardening zone, storytelling area, a 'berry alley' with trellises, raised communal beds and accessible plots, alongside traditional plots for individual growing.

Following feedback from local residents, the designs were enhanced to include more fruit trees, water butts, a shared compost heap and space for shared storage. In addition, an area will be laid to grass for future expansion to give new residents an opportunity to get involved with the community garden, so it can evolve over time.



Natalie Leigh Brown, Community Development at Alconbury Weald said: "We all know gardening has a wide range of physical and mental health benefits. The joy of coming together to learn about growing, and share expertise and produce, will be a key theme for this new space. It has been great to work with Groundwork East to pull together the suggestions from the community, and we recently shared the final designs with residents to ensure we have picked up all the feedback and have a great scheme to take forward into planning and delivery."

The plans will be finalised and submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council, with the plan for Groundwork East to deliver them in Spring 2024.



Campus News



Campus success

Alconbury Enterprise Campus is a dynamic place for businesses of all shapes and sizes — whether starting up, relocating or expanding — companies can rent flexible space for research and development, production and office accommodation in one of the Incubator buildings or design and build bespoke facilities to meet their specific requirements, supported by the design, development and project teams at Urban&Civic.

Community is an equally important part of Campus life, with a Business Group meeting regularly to bring companies on site together and explore ways to collaborate and ensure a great place for employees to work.

With the first phase of the Campus nearing completion, over 1 million sq ft of commercial space has been developed across eight buildings, home to 12 companies employing over 1,000 staff.

Rebecca Britton, Communities and Partnerships at Urban&Civic, said: "It's fantastic to see our growing and diverse business community at Alconbury Enterprise Campus going from strength to strength. It's been a challenging time for the country over the past few years and it is a testament to the Campus' fantastic location and first-class facilities that it continues to grow and attract new inward investment.



"As we move towards planning and delivering the next phase of Alconbury Weald, we have commissioned a review of the local and global economy so we can make sure we have the right strategy for employment space coming forward in the next phase of the Enterprise Campus."

If you have a business that is looking to relocate or expand its operation, you can find out more about the commercial space at Alconbury Enterprise Campus by emailing William Rose, Commercial Director at Savills on wrose@savills.com.

Incubator 2 welcomes Ensors

Alconbury Campus recently welcomed a firm of chartered accountants, who have set up home on the ground floor of Incubator 2.

Ensors' specialist teams service the specific needs of key industry sectors including technology and innovation, transport and logistics, manufacturing and engineering, property development and construction, leisure and tourism, as well as healthcare and professional partnerships.

With five offices spread across East Anglia, the Ensors' Huntingdon team has relocated from its previous premises on Ermine Park, to facilitate the firm's growth plans. The Alconbury Weald office had a custom fit out to cater for staff and clients alike and is currently occupied by 21 staff, with capacity to recruit another 15 to the team. There continue to be opportunities for qualified accountants, tax advisors, as well as trainees joining their Trainee Accountant Programme.

Services available from the office include book-keeping support, year end accounts, audits, personal tax returns, payroll services, Corporation Tax including Research and Development tax credits, and specialist VAT advice.

To find out more, visit www.ensors.co.uk



We are delighted with our new offices at Alconbury Weald. We used local contractors and advisors throughout the refurbishment and move, so that our staff now have a first-class working environment to operate from to assist our clients. We look forward to embedding ourselves in the community at Alconbury Weald in due course.

James Francis Partner, Ensors Accountants

Encocam

The iMET building is now home to Encocam Ltd, a world-class engineering and manufacturing business established in 1988.



The two-storey building brings together industrial workshops, laboratories and collaborative work environments. The flexible collaboration space provides opportunities for company events, such as the presentation of the Queen's Award for Enterprise 2022, which took place last October, and the technical conference and workshops that will be held in September to mark the 35th anniversary of Encocam.

The Cellbond ATD project team was among the first to move in. The team is made up of specialist design and project engineers and technicians who develop, build, and test crash test dummies and passive safety test equipment. The products, which are used to assess the safety of new vehicles, play an important role in keeping road users safe.

iMET's workshop space is being developed into a state-of-the-art test facility. Each crash test dummy undergoes vigorous testing to ensure that every component meets strict international standards. This will free up valuable space at Encocam's three existing Huntingdon facilities, where the manufacture of aluminium honeycomb

foil, crash test barriers, crash test dummy components, large-sized vacuum tables for digital and screen printing, motorcycles, and bespoke composite panels, is being increased to meet demand.

Other teams including marketing, sales, IT and accounts are also based in the building.

Encocam's Founder and Chairman, Dr Mike Ashmead OBE, is looking forward to the anniversary and said: "This is an exciting time for Encocam. We celebrate 35 years in business this year and the organisation continues to grow and develop. The investment in iMET is allowing us to employ more staff, increase our apprenticeship programme and plan for the future of the business."

Encocam already employs a diverse workforce of 225 staff and the expansion brings more local opportunities. If you would like to find out more about the business and the jobs available, please contact Recruitment Co-ordinator Kim Smith at recruitment@encocam.com or visit www.encocam.com

Royal visit to Magpas Air Ambulance base

In February, Magpas Air Ambulance staff, clinicians and former patients welcomed HRH The Princess Royal to the site of the charity's new base, to unveil a cornerstone for the new building, which was mid-way through construction.

The new, purpose-built airbase and headquarters at Alconbury Weald will include a dedicated state-of-the-art training centre to train the next generation of pre-hospital emergency doctors and critical care paramedics; be equipped for 24/7 operations with wellbeing and rest facilities for crew and clinicians; and provide new community and patient facilities on site.

The charity's new home will reduce vehicle dispatch times by up to 15 minutes and co-locate the charity's operations and support staff, who currently work across two sites. This will improve efficiency, reducing charity's overheads and improving its environmental impact.

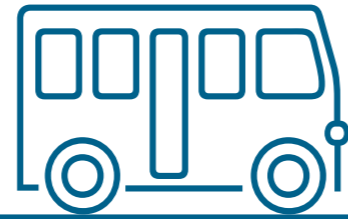
HRH The Princess Royal became Magpas Air Ambulance's Royal Patron after she visited the charity's current operations base in February 2020, and heard about the pressing need for the service to find a new home. In 2021, the charity's 50th year of operations, she launched the Future 50 Appeal aimed at raising the funding needed to complete the building, with the unveiling of a cornerstone on Friday 10 February 2023 marking an important milestone in the development of the project.

Speaking of the occasion, Daryl Brown MBE DL, Magpas Air Ambulance Chief Executive Officer, said: "It was an honour to welcome our patron HRH The Princess Royal to the site of our new base at Alconbury Weald. After unveiling the cornerstone, which will become a treasured part of our building, we were delighted to hear a few words from The Princess Royal and see her passion for the service we provide, before welcoming her to a reception afterwards. Here, she met former patients, Magpas Air Ambulance clinicians and funders of the project.

"It's incredibly exciting to see, what has been a plan for a very long time, finally come to fruition — especially as the building has now reached the major milestone of being watertight — and we can see the charity's new home really coming together."

The charity, which is funded by donations, has been careful not to divert income from running the day-to-day lifesaving service. As Lucy Chapman, Magpas Air Ambulance Director of Fundraising and Marketing explains, "We are extremely fortunate to receive fantastic support from the communities in which we work. As a charity, our service relies on donations from supporters and the public to raise the £6 million needed every year to operate and save lives 24/7. For this reason, we secured alternative and new sources of funding for the Future 50 Appeal. It's fantastic to celebrate this important milestone in the project with HRH The Princess Royal, and we can't wait to invite all our supporters to the new airbase once it is complete." www.magpas.org.uk





On the buses

Launched in January last year, the AW1 bus service has increased connectivity between local communities and provide additional sustainable transport links to the wider area. The service, which uses a specially designed

low carbon vehicle, is part of Urban&Civic's commitment to low carbon living and to improve sustainable transport options, so people living and working at Alconbury Weald have a convenient and reliable alternative to the car.

COMING SOON: New route for AW1

From 24 July, it will be even easier to catch the AW1 bus! The AW1 bus route is being extended and will travel along The Boulevard — stopping on Senliz Road by Garland Park — and down Swynford Road — stopping between Swynford Stores and Ermine Street Church Academy — before heading out of Alconbury Weald, onto Ermine Street.

The AW1 is an hourly service, with times geared around the train timetable, to ensure an easy onward journey for those travelling further afield.

You can also catch the 904 service to/from Alconbury Weald, so you shouldn't have too long to wait for a bus!

Bus timetables are available to view online at: www.traveline.info

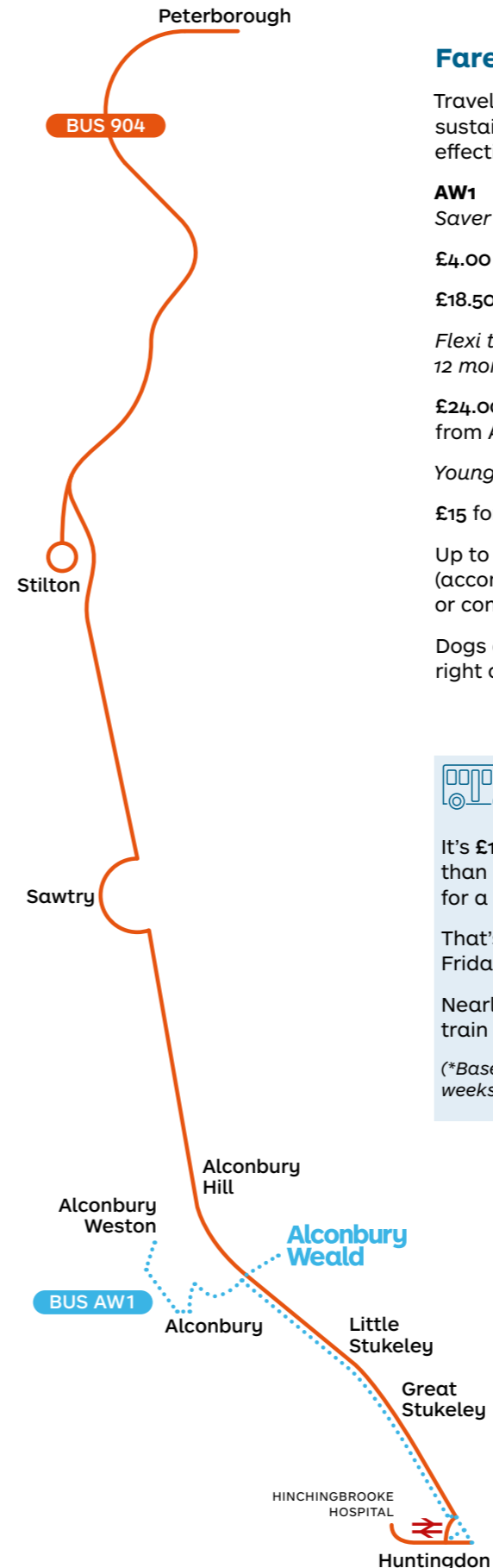
Natalie Leigh-Brown, Community Development Lead for Alconbury Weald, said: "Working in partnership with the local authority and Dews Coaches, we're delighted to be able to extend the AW1 bus service; to run through the residential heart of the development.



New bus route coming forward from 24 July 2023

Urban&Civic continues to make a significant investment in sustainable transport and, to further encourage a shift away from car use, we have some great incentives on bus tickets for residents this summer.

Rebecca Britton Communications, Communities and Partnerships



Fares

Travelling by bus is not only more sustainable, but it's also more cost effective than driving.

AW1

Saver tickets: unlimited travel

£4.00 / £5.50 child/adult day ticket

£18.50 / £27.50 child/adult weekly ticket

Flexi ticket: 10 journeys (valid for 12 months)

£24.00 adult ticket (based on trips to/from Alconbury Weald)

Young person (up to 21)/student saver

£15 for a flexi ticket or £2 per journey

Up to two children under 5 travel free (accompanied by a fare paying adult or concessionary pass holder)

Dogs are carried free (subject to the right of the driver to refuse)

Multi-bus tickets

Passengers can travel on services run by different operators in Cambridgeshire without having to pay separate fares every time they change bus (includes AW1 and 904).

£8.00 multi-bus day ticket

£33.00 multi-bus week ticket

Bus tickets can be purchased via the ticket machine on the bus (which offers contactless payment options) or via the myTrip App.

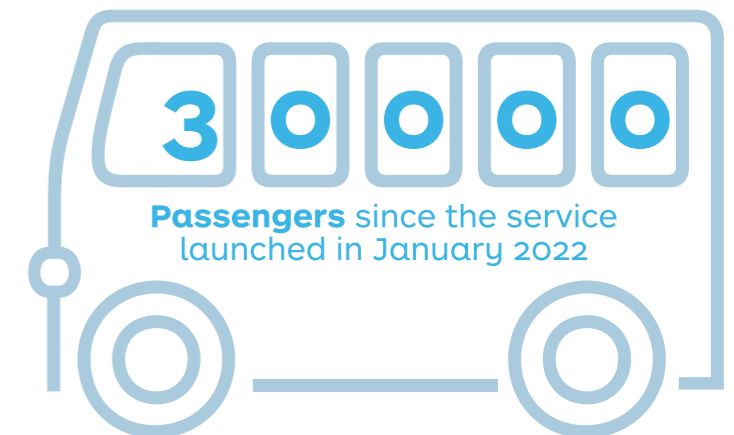


It's £1.70 cheaper to get the bus than park at Huntingdon Rail Station for a day.

That's £8.50 per week (Monday-Friday).

Nearly £400 a year if you travel by train for your daily commute.*

(*Based on a five-day week, with five weeks annual leave)



Recent events and activities...

Alconbury Weald has a diverse, active community that enjoys a wide variety of events and activities throughout the year.



Community wellbeing day

Early each year, residents are invited to a free community activity day to try out some of the regular sports and fitness classes taking place at Alconbury Weald. This year, the programme was extended to include a range of wellbeing activities, advice and guidance to support a holistic approach to healthy bodies and minds in 2023.



Pond dipping in Carnaile Pond

Alconbury Weald is creating homes for nature as well as people, with an abundance of natural habitats supporting a wide range of wildlife. Twenty families attended a guided pond dipping event in March to explore the underwater world of Carnaile Pond with experts from The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants (BCN).

Tennis activation event

Huntingdon Tennis Club's sessions for adult beginners, mini tennis (4-9-year-olds) and free play/family time proved really popular with local residents.



Coronation event

Our Coronation Day celebrations took place on Watch Office Green, with live music, food trucks and lots of fun family activities. The following day, as part of The Big Help Out, Alconbury Weald residents took part in a local litter pick organised by The Happy Weald.



Open Gardens

On 4 June, green fingered residents at Alconbury Weald opened up their gardens to inspire neighbours with a range of fascinating flower beds, wildlife friendly features and luscious landscaping.





Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children aged 4–11 years old to discover the joy of reading for pleasure over the summer holidays. With the theme of 'sport', we're kicking off this year's Summer Reading Challenge with lots of family games and sporting activities to inspire children to take up the reading challenge.



Heritage Open Day

Alconbury Weald is rich in history spanning centuries — from pre-historic settlements to its more recent military past — which will be celebrated on Watch Office Green on 9 September.



Scarecrow Festival

This year's Scarecrow Festival promises to be even bigger and better than last year, with scarecrows of all shapes and sizes adorning a trail around Alconbury Weald.

The year ahead



Wild Weald

Local nature lovers will have an opportunity to explore the green corridors, ponds and natural habitats around Alconbury Weald with local wildlife experts.

Halloweald Trail

Images will adorn Alconbury Weald, so residents can take part in a spooky trail during the half term holidays.



Remembrance Sunday

Each year, the community gathers at Ermine Street Church Academy to walk together to Watch Office Green to remember those who have given their life in service, with a two minute silence, laying of wreaths and poppies and a commitment to work for peace, followed by the national British and American anthems.



Christmas Market

With The Glade taking shape, we're planning our first pop up Christmas market with local food, drink, gifts, crafts and festive entertainment. If you have a stall and are interested in joining us, register an interest by emailing info@alconbury-weald.co.uk

Budding tennis players at the Alconbury Weald Tennis Activation event in April



Rebecca Britton

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