



Test Valley News

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GANGER FARM TO OPEN UP

A fantastic new multi-million-pound sports and leisure complex in Romsey is set to open its doors this summer.

Ganger Farm sports facilities, based at the King's Chase housing development, will soon be passed over to Test Valley Borough Council by Barrett David Wilson Homes.

The council first identified the need for the site in the Local Plan more than ten years ago. Following a planning application for 275 houses on the former fruit farm, the council secured the provision of state-of-the-art community sports facilities through a Section 106 agreement.

The complex comprises of six grass pitches for adult rugby and football and junior football, as well as two floodlit all-weather pitches for hockey, rugby and football. There is a two-storey pavilion with bar and café space, kitchen and balconies overlooking the pitches as well as an exercise and dance studio. The site also includes a large community space, conference room and multiple changing rooms.

Final inspections of the artificial pitches are currently underway, and sports clubs from around the area have already registered their interest and excitement to start using the facility. The grass pitches have already been inspected by the Grounds Maintenance Authority and were commended for their high quality.

Community and leisure portfolio holder, councillor Ian Jeffrey, said:

"These are superb facilities that have had many years in the planning.

"Work has already taken place with the various sports clubs who I know are just as excited as I am to see the facilities in action. While we would like to have an exact date for the opening the current pandemic has meant that there have been some delays, but we're working hard to open the doors for a much needed summer of sport."



Sports teams, clubs and potential hirers of the venue can contact the borough council by emailing gangersports@testvalley.gov.uk for information or questions about the site.

RIVERSIDE PARK NEARS COMPLETION



A new footpath and cycleway has been designed to gently wind between the north and south of the park and circular seating areas have been positioned to carefully interject into the pathway to encourage fluid travel through the area.

The development marks the start of the overall transformation of Andover town centre, following the launch of the town centre masterplan which was presented to the public last year. The redevelopment of the area surrounding Town Mills is a joint project between Test Valley Borough Council, Hampshire County Council and Andover Vision and has received more than half a million pounds in funding from the EM3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Andover residents can look forward to their new Riverside Park opening soon as the Town Mills redevelopment enters the final stages of work.

Last month saw 11 new trees planted in the town centre park, each possessing a different quality and providing beautiful blooms during all seasons. The trees will add height and depth to the space, whilst offering plenty of shady spots in the summer months and the new greenery will bring an air of peace and tranquillity to the centre of Andover.

The idea to transform the Town Mills area first came to light in 2017, when a desire to improve the route through the centre of Andover and showcase the river identified Town Mills as a key location that could be developed to achieve this. The area has historically been a place where people have stopped to view the river, though restricted space has made it difficult for pedestrians to pass by.

The new Riverside Park will have dedicated stopping places and a number of new benches have been installed. The development of a section of the car park outside Town Mills will also help to widen the green space that will soon be available to the public.

The park will offer a relaxing spot for people to play, picnic and enjoy the river.



Leader of Test Valley Borough Council, Councillor Phil North, said:

"After a difficult year, we're now incredibly close to seeing this project reach completion. Everyone has been working so hard to develop the area and create something truly special for Andover. With spring just around the corner and the roadmap for the lifting of restrictions announced, it will be a perfect time for us all to make the most of the new park and really embrace all that Andover has to offer."

NEW EXTRA CARE HOMES TO OPEN THIS SUMMER



New homes for older people in Romsey are nearing completion following a partnership between Hampshire County Council (HCC), Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) and Places for People.

Nightingale Lodge, based on the corner of Winchester Road and Cupernham Lane, is due to open this summer and offers extra care accommodation and 24-hour care and support on site. The development is aimed at people who have either existing care or support needs, or who anticipate needing support in the near future.

Thirty-seven of the apartments will be made available for affordable rent and 17 will be available for purchase through a shared ownership scheme.

Anyone interested in securing the affordable rented apartments can make enquiries to Test Valley Borough Council (01264 368000), or find more information about extra care housing on the TVBC website. Applications should be made via Hampshire Home Choice - www.hampshirehomechoice.org.uk

Extra care housing provides an ideal solution for those who wish to continue living independently but need some form of care and support which can be tailored to suit their needs.

In addition to the apartments, Nightingale Lodge offers a variety of facilities for residents as well as the local community. These include a wellness suite, hair and beauty salon, a restaurant and landscaped gardens.

Nightingale Lodge is the first Living Plus development in Romsey, which is being delivered with construction partners Morgan Sindall Later Living and Amiri.

Test Valley Borough Council's portfolio holder for housing and environmental health, councillor Phil Bundy, said: *"We're delighted to be working with the development team on Nightingale Lodge. This ambitious project will bring a high standard of homes to Romsey and will help us establish a great community and ultimately be a great asset for the town. We are pleased that many of the apartments will be offered as affordable rented homes making them accessible to a wider range of customers."*

Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health, councillor Liz Fairhurst, said: *"Nightingale Lodge will provide high quality new homes in Romsey for anyone who wants to remain independent, but may need extra help and the added reassurance of qualified staff on hand 24/7. This is all about offering people choices rather than a 'one size fits all' approach to care."*

Andy Lomas of Places for People said: *"We are delighted to be launching this fantastic new community for the people of Romsey. We are passionate about creating well-designed homes which are available through either sale or rent. Living Plus has a great track record of establishing similar communities across the country where we aim to create a balance of independent living, great amenities and social activities – but with added facilities that give peace of mind."*

"Extra care apartments are ideal for those who wish to remain independent, with their own front door and privacy, yet with the knowledge that they can be supported in their own home when necessary. Nightingale Lodge is about embracing life, and the new opportunities a development like this can offer are endless."

UPDATING THE VISION FOR ROMSEY



The Romsey Future Partnership is calling on residents across the town to help set its priorities and vision for the years ahead.

Back in 2014, the partnership set up a list of ambitions for the next few years. Now, having delivered a number of initiatives and having contributed to an exciting masterplan for the area south of the town centre, the partnership needs the help of its communities once more.

A survey has been launched asking residents, and those who use the town but who may live elsewhere, to tell them what their priorities and aspirations are for Romsey.

This will help the partnership to shape its vision and focus on what the town needs over the next few years.

Romsey Future is a partnership which includes stakeholders such as community groups, volunteers and members of both Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.

Chair of Romsey Future, councillor Nick Adams-King, said: *"It probably only seems like yesterday that we were asking residents to get involved in our latest project, which of course was the masterplan consultation for the area south of the town centre."*

"That's because Romsey Future is an organisation that very much represents its community and for us to be able to do that, we need your input. The masterplan was just one of the projects we have been working on but is also a great example of what can be achieved when we come together."

"Our other schemes include Christmas funding for security around the town, more bicycle racks and mapping out how residents can walk and cycle to access the town easily. However, what we want to know is what the quality of your daily life is like in Romsey, and, looking forward, how we can make it even better. It might be that you'd like more access to green space or have an idea completely out of the blue. The point is, we want to hear it. So please, log on to the Romsey Future website, and have your voice heard."

The survey can be accessed via the Romsey Future website at romseyfuture.org.uk

PUSHING FORWARD ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Test Valley Borough Council is continuing to push on to help combat climate change, following the declaration of a climate emergency in September 2019.

A number of projects have seen the authority reduce its electricity output and save hundreds of thousands of pounds on paper, having cut down on printing. Significant reductions in light electricity at the Chantry Centre car park following the installation of LED lighting last year is just one way the council is looking to cut back and save further.

Other changes include the council adding electric vehicles to the authority's fleet to replace diesel versions.

As well as reducing carbon output, the council is also looking at different ways to manage parts of the borough's green spaces in a bid to increase wildlife while reducing the emissions that are usually produced.

Businesses have also benefitted, with the council helping organisations in the borough to access grants to help towards the cost of delivering projects such as energy-saving initiatives and installing renewable energy systems, as well as accessing free energy audits.

More information on environmental support that's available for businesses in Test Valley can be found via Greentech South at greentechsouth.com/emphasis3

CLIMATE DAY OF ACTION FOR ANDOVER



Andover is to come together for a climate day of action this summer to help raise awareness of how we can go further to help our environment.

Launched by Andover Vision and some its key partners, the day itself is set to take place on June 25 when communities, organisations and everyone in between can commit to helping the fight against climate change.

Andover Trees United, Andover Plastic Free and Andover Transition Town are just some of the partners contributing and helping to organise the day.

While many people and businesses already take steps to reduce their carbon output, the day of action will give those people a chance to highlight what they do, inspire others, and see if they can go even further.

There will be an online pack with ideas on how schools, organisations and individuals can get involved. Whether

it's walking or cycling for a journey rather than taking the car, turning your lights off for an extra hour in the day or cooking a meat-free meal, there are plenty of ideas available!

Those taking part can share their idea or activity on social media with the hashtag **#andoverclimateaction** or email: andovervision@testvalley.gov.uk

Chair of Andover Vision, Phil North, said:

"I know that many people, either by themselves or as part of their business or school, already do so much to help fight climate change. However, with this day of action, we really want to galvanise our town and wider community to take the lead and make a pledge to go a step further."

"What you're doing could inspire somebody else and what we want, at the end of the day, is to share what we can do to make an even bigger impact. So please, go online at andovervision.org.uk, check out our participation packs and find inspiration to help our town and our planet."



Harrow Way Community School
Specialist School in Maths & Computing

Harrow Way is widely acknowledged as a very successful school dedicated to the achievement and well-being of all of its students. OFSTED recognised us as a 'good school' in April 2017, a judgement of which we are understandably proud.

We were pleased to announce that the school was chosen to be in the Parliamentary review last September. Harrow Way featured alongside key individuals in Education and a small number of outstanding schools.

For the second year running (having been the first school in Hampshire in 2017), Harrow Way remains the only school in Hampshire to have been awarded the much coveted Big Award for our exemplary work in bullying intervention. The Teacher Development Trust Network (TDTN) has recognised our commitment to the highest standards in teaching and learning and in 2018 we were awarded the Silver

Award for our high standard of training for teachers.

Our exciting and innovative curriculum offers a wide range of opportunities for students to succeed. Harrow Way Community School is a popular, thriving establishment successfully serving the needs of the wider community as well as the school population.

Come and discover what makes this school so special and join in our success. Visitors to the school are always welcome.



Learning for life, success for all



Harrow Way, Andover, Hampshire SP10 3RH
Telephone: 01264 364533 www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk

DESIGN PHASE UNDERWAY FOR NEW CYCLING LANE

The cycle lane on one of the main roads that connects Southampton to Romsey is now being designed after funding was agreed by Test Valley borough councillors through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Southampton Road is set to see the new lane installed this year, which will help cyclists travel between the

city and Romsey, and offer a more environmentally-friendly alternative to driving.

The scheme has been funded through the council's CIL, which is made up of contributions from developers which go towards delivering infrastructure around the area.

SUPPORT STILL AVAILABLE FOR BUSINESSES DURING LOCKDOWN



Businesses are being encouraged to apply for thousands of pounds of vital funding to help the local economy that has been impacted by national restrictions.

The covid-19 pandemic has meant that many businesses are currently closed in an effort to reduce transmission of the disease. However, businesses are being encouraged to come forward to apply for a number of grants that remain available.

Since January, having received national guidance from the government on eligibility and other criteria, Test Valley Borough Council's revenues team has been processing hundreds of thousands of pounds to award businesses across the borough.

The authority has paid out around £9m in grants to businesses since the November lockdown, around £9m has been paid out in grants to businesses. Despite the significant amount, those who haven't already come forward are being asked to do so, particularly in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors, as well as those in events and who have had to close as a direct result of the lockdown.

Support also remains available to those in the early years childcare sector through the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG).

All businesses that remain eligible for support will automatically be paid for the period up to March 31, following the recent roadmap announcement by central government.

The schemes available include the ARG, the Local Restrictions Support Grant and new lockdown grants with one-off payments to closed or affected businesses.

The ARG covers businesses in the retail, hospitality, leisure, events and

early learning sectors and will last for the duration of any national lockdown, as well as tier four limitations. This grant also covers supply chains that have not been forced to close, but whose income has been significantly affected by the closure of its customers.

The Local Restrictions Support Grant (addendum) applies to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses mandated to close during the tier four restrictions and national lockdown.

Payments for both the ARG and Local Restrictions Grant range from £1,000 to £4,500 depending on the applicable restrictions and rateable value.

Lockdown grants will supply a one-off payment to businesses who have been forced to close or affected by the national lockdown that began in January, but businesses will only be eligible if they pay business rates. Covering similar sectors, payments can range up to £9,000. These grants will be paid automatically to eligible businesses that receive the above ARG and Local Restrictions Grant payment.

Finance portfolio holder, councillor Maureen Flood, said:

"I'm extremely pleased that such a large sum of funding has been passed to those who really need it in our Test Valley economy. However, there remain opportunities for those who may be eligible to apply, and I really hope that businesses and organisations take up that chance."

"Although the vaccination programme is rapidly helping to make our communities safer, we are not out of the woods yet by any stretch and this is a real chance to help our businesses. I would urge those who haven't yet, to come forward."

More information and applications can be found via: www.testvalley.gov.uk/businessgrant

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND OFFICE SPACE APPROVED FOR ANDOVER

Andover is set to benefit from the creation of first-of-its-kind office space after Test Valley Borough Council received grant backing for a modern, vibrant, co-working facility, right in the heart of the town centre.

The council is working with IncuHive Group Limited to create a new 'IncuHive Space' on the fourth and fifth floors of Chantry House and has just secured more than £200k in grant funding from the M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to deliver the project.

IncuHive Spaces offer business incubation and co-working centres with a creative twist, providing mentoring, investment, office space, networking and more – all with the aim of creating a diverse business community. This exciting new facility will be aimed at small businesses, start-ups and for people currently working from home. It reflects a need for flexible space in town centres, both in the short-term as they begin to emerge from lockdown and in the longer-term as the nation's high streets continue to evolve and adapt.

It is expected to reduce the need for office workers to undertake long commutes by providing equally well-equipped and better located accommodation, avoiding the need to travel to major cities.

The proposal from IncuHive will see the refurbishment of more than 4,700 sq ft of commercial floorspace to create six individual office spaces and 30 rentable desks, together with a recreation area and reception facilities.

It is also hoped that the new facility will assist with the town's economic recovery and drive up footfall in the High Street.

The move will mark the start of the journey towards a new era for Andover, which will see a greater mixture of work, living and leisure uses in the town centre.

The project is expected to take around five to six months to complete, with work set to begin in the coming weeks.

The proposal has been designed to comply with social distancing rules, and the council and IncuHive will put in place various precautions to safeguard users. In providing a local facility as an alternative to commuting to London, it will reduce the strain on public transport and assist with carbon reduction.

COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT UNCHANGED IN FACE OF PANDEMIC

Residents will continue to receive the same level of council tax support after Test Valley borough councillors voted in January to maintain the existing scheme due to the impact of the pandemic.

Council tax support provides a contribution towards council tax bills for households with a low income and for those with limited savings who cannot work. The amount awarded by the authority can cover up to 100 per cent of the amount owed.

Anyone who has a liability to pay council tax in the UK can apply for council tax support but entitlement will depend on their family circumstances and how much income and capital they have.

Finance portfolio holder, councillor Maureen Flood, said:

"As well as the impact on people's health, the impact of coronavirus on businesses and their employees has caused many people financial hardship. The council tax support scheme offers vital help to the most vulnerable members of our community and this has never been more important."

More information about the council tax support scheme and how to apply is available at www.testvalley.gov.uk

HELPING TO TEST THOUSANDS WITH ANDOVER FACILITY



Test Valley Borough Council's Shepherd's Spring Lane car park is currently helping to test thousands across the county as part of the efforts against the spread of coronavirus.

The walk-through testing facility opened in January and is open for those with symptoms to book appointments, as part of the Government's UK-wide drive to continue to improve the accessibility of coronavirus testing for local communities.

Testing is available only for those with coronavirus symptoms – a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste. Anyone with one or more of these symptoms should book a test via the NHS website, or by calling 119. From the start of the pandemic, testing has been prioritised for the most vulnerable, including patients in clinical settings and care home residents, vital health and care staff and to manage outbreaks.

The site is situated to enable easy access for those on foot, but spaces remain available for those who need to drive. Those being tested are required to follow public health measures, including social distancing, not travelling by taxi or public transport, practising good personal hygiene and wearing a face covering throughout, including while travelling to and from the testing centre.

Anyone attending an appointment at a walk-through testing site will be provided with guidance on getting to and from the test site safely, with additional support for vulnerable groups and people with disabilities.

Appointments are made available each day.

The site is part of the largest network of diagnostic testing facilities created in British history, which now comprises drive-through sites, walk-through sites, mobile units, home testing and satellite kits and five mega laboratories.

Anyone testing positive for the virus in England will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace to help them track their contacts. This will help people to identify anyone they may have been in close contact with, protecting others from further transmission.

Close contacts of those testing positive will also hear from NHS Test and Trace, asking them to stay at home for 14 days to prevent them from unknowingly spreading the virus. They will be advised to also book a test if they develop symptoms.

Leader of Test Valley Borough Council, councillor Phil North, said:

"Vaccinations and mass testing are both absolutely pivotal in enabling us to navigate our way out of this pandemic. Having provided council-owned buildings to our NHS colleagues for the vaccination centres, I'm really pleased that we've also been able to provide this car park as a testing facility – which will enable users to both walk-up and drive to the site. Making it much easier for local residents to get a test."

"While another national lockdown is tough to take, there is light at the end of the tunnel if we all pull together and do the right thing. If you have any symptoms of coronavirus, then please do get tested and don't risk passing it to your loved ones or others around you."

CURTAINS UP FOR VACCINATION CENTRES

The Lights theatre in Andover and Crosfield Hall in Romsey have seen thousands vaccinated against coronavirus after opening their doors as GP-led vaccination sites to assist with the rollout of the national vaccination programme just before Christmas.

Council chiefs continue to work with NHS colleagues from the West Hampshire and North Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Groups after initially trying to identify suitable sites in the borough, with The Lights in Andover and Crosfield Hall in Romsey both selected for the mammoth task.

The national vaccination programme is being coordinated by the NHS and central government with those most at risk receiving their initial doses of the breakthrough vaccine, first. The NHS will contact people in the priority groups when it is their turn to receive the vaccine. People should not contact their surgeries as the vaccination service is available strictly by invitation only.

Leader of Test Valley Borough Council, councillor Phil North, said:

"I am really pleased that we are able to play our own small part in supporting the national vaccination programme. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to the users of these venues but the scale of this task is almost unprecedented and we will do all we can to assist the NHS with the rollout of the vaccines."

Dr Ben Sharpe, clinical lead for the Andover vaccination site, said:

"The scientists behind this vaccine have managed to ensure it is safe, well-tested and very effective in a brilliantly short timescale."

"There has been extraordinary teamwork across the town amongst the Primary Care Network (all of the town's GP practices together), Test Valley Borough Council, the team at The Lights and the Clinical Commissioning Group in Hampshire. There has been an amazing response of over 200 volunteers wanting to help us deliver this programme, for which we are really grateful."

COMMUNITY TESTING SITE KICKS OFF AT PICKET TWENTY SPORTS PAVILION

The sports pavilion at Picket Twenty has been unveiled as a community testing site for eligible residents without coronavirus symptoms.

Launched last month, the Test Valley Borough Council sports pavilion is being run until at least April and is one of 11 community testing sites across Hampshire.

The appointment-only scheme, which was initially launched to run for six weeks and is being delivered by Hampshire County Council in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care and local district councils, is aimed at Hampshire residents who travel regularly outside their home for work and who are not covered by an existing workplace testing scheme.

The Picket Twenty site is only for those who are asymptomatic. Anyone experiencing symptoms, and anyone with a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste should book a test at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by calling 119.



Leader of Test Valley Borough Council, councillor Phil North, said: *"Getting this site ready as a community testing facility has been no mean feat and I am really pleased that we have been instrumental in bringing this forward. Although it would have been ideal to get this in place prior to now it's inevitable that these things take time to be approved from the centre, so I cannot thank the staff at Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council enough for the huge amount of work they have undertaken to turn this around as quickly as possible."*

"Effective testing and, of course, the phenomenal vaccination programme, offer light at the end of the tunnel, and we will do everything we can to support our NHS and public health colleagues to deliver those."

COUNCIL SETS OUT BUDGET STRATEGY IN WAKE OF PANDEMIC

Test Valley Borough Council chiefs have set their budget strategy for 2021/22, after outlining their plans to navigate the financial challenges brought about by coronavirus.

At a full council meeting last month, councillors addressed the loss of income due to the pandemic, primarily from car parking, planning application and leisure centre fees, combined with increased costs, which means the authority is expected to be £6.3m worse off in 2020/21. But thanks to various government grants and savings, the total deficit for the year is £1.4m. To deal with this gap, the council's cabinet agreed to dip into reserves to cover the deficit once final figures are revealed in May.

Councillors also recognised that Covid-19 is going to have a profound impact on Test Valley's budget for 2021/22. The government is assuming that the authority will put up council tax by £5 next year to help pay for that and has already built that into its assessment of councils' spending power.

In order to close the budget gap for next year, the cabinet has decided to make a further draw on reserves coupled with a much more modest council tax increase of £2.50.

Finance portfolio holder, councillor Maureen Flood, said:

"The past year has been incredibly challenging for everyone including the council, but we are fortunate that we have been able to continue providing our core services throughout the pandemic. It is crucial that we continue to protect those services but acknowledge that there will be difficult times ahead and we will face various financial pressures for a great deal of time to come.

"Thanks to our reserves and support from central government we have been able cushion the blow for this year. Reserves do not offer an unlimited resource and we are only able to spend that money once, but there has never been a more important time for us to dip into those funds.

"In 2021/22, Test Valley residents will pay an average of £148.91 for the year, covering a range of services including bin collections, housing and homelessness, planning, licensing, economic development and leisure, as well as the delivery of major projects such as the redevelopment of Andover and Romsey town centres. After the increase, Test Valley's council tax will remain one of the lowest in Hampshire."

The authority recently announced that its council tax support scheme to help those on low incomes would remain unchanged.

PUBLIC ASKED FOR BEST WAYS TO HAVE THEIR SAY AS NHS PROGRAMME MOVES FORWARD

People across Test Valley, Hampshire and the wider areas are being asked how they would like to receive information and provide feedback on potential changes to hospital services.

The results will inform public consultation plans for the Hampshire Together: Modernising our Hospitals and Health Services programme, which is expected to consult on proposals for change later this year.

The Hampshire Together programme was set up in response to the New Hospital Programme as part of the Government's Health Infrastructure Plan, which named north and mid Hampshire as one of the areas to benefit from funding to build 40 new facilities before 2030.

It includes the potential for the construction of a brand-new hospital, with health and care partners working together to develop health, wellbeing and care services, that provide everyone across north and mid Hampshire with access to high-quality, timely and sustainable hospital services as close to home as possible. More information about the programme can be found at www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk

"It's really important we make information about our proposals as widely available and as accessible as we can," said Alex Whitfield, chief executive of Hampshire Hospitals, which runs Andover War Memorial Hospital, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital and Royal Hampshire County Hospital, in Winchester.

"We know that people like to receive and respond to information in different ways, whether that is via leaflets and videos or public meetings and drop-in exhibitions. Getting a sense of people's preferences will help us to tailor the range of information and activities we offer during our consultation. This is particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic as we find our normal ways of receiving information and engaging in our local communities are different."

Dr Matt Nisbet, clinical lead for business and partnerships at Hampshire and Isle of Wight Partnership of CCGs, said: *"It's an exciting programme for everyone in north and mid Hampshire – and we really want to make sure as many local people as possible are aware of the consultation and have sufficient, easily accessible and available information in a range of formats to be able to tell us their views during our public consultation later this year. This work will help to ensure that."*

Visit www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HampshireTogetherSurvey to take part in the online survey, which will close at 5pm on Thursday 24 March 2021.

WORKING TOGETHER IN PLANNING NEW NEIGHBOURHOODS



From state-of-the-art sports pitches, modern community centres and open green spaces, a review into the new neighbourhoods around the borough has highlighted the quality of facilities available across Test Valley.

Over the past few years, Test Valley Borough Council has granted permission to a select number of housing developments in both the north and south of the borough.

In early 2019, a workshop in Abbotswood, Romsey, gave an opportunity to residents to feed back on what they enjoyed and valued about the

area they lived in, and what they would improve if possible. This important information helps shape future new communities and ensures the authority is well-placed to embed best practice in getting the infrastructure that is needed most for new neighbourhoods.

The close work of all the council's services such as community engagement, planning and planning policy ensures the best possible outcomes with new facilities, community halls and other infrastructure in future developments. In recent years, Picket Twenty community centre and sports pavilion, Abbotswood Community Centre and Augusta Park Community Centre have all opened up to help new residents.



Care at the heart of your community

Millway House has established a reputation for high quality residential and nursing care, with a specialised focus on complex nursing and end of life care.

“We provide an extensive activities programme led by our 3 Activities and Well-Being Coordinators. Activities that focus not just on being entertained, but help people keep active and retain links with their hobbies and interests. Characterised by an ever-evolving range of entertainers visiting the Home, life is never dull at Millway House.”

Kay Jerrams, Home Manager

We have just been rated ‘Good’ by the CQC, so join us for a coffee and a chat.

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www.millwayhouse.co.uk



Millway House, Amesbury Rd. Andover, Hampshire, SP11 8DE



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TAKING THE FIGHT TO THOSE RESPONSIBLE IN TEST VALLEY

Test Valley Borough Council has secured a number of successful prosecutions against those who continue to commit fly-tipping and waste crimes across the borough .

In January, Mitchell Cooper was made to pay almost £23,000 for a series of offences that took place last year, including not having the correct licences, fly-tipping waste and rubble, and failing to explain how he disposed of more than 50 tyres he was seen carrying.

February saw two sisters ordered to pay more than £1,500 between them for failing to attend a formal interview after waste belonging to them was found in two car parks. Carla Matthews was fined regarding the fly-tip in a Test Way car park between Timsbury and King's Somborne, while her sister

Chantell was fined regarding waste in Cowdown Lane, Andover.

Also earlier this year, Max Stevenson, of no fixed address, was prosecuted after he had been driving his truck around the area between January and April 2020, and was collecting and disposing of scrap metal. However, when officers from Test Valley Borough Council started the investigation and asked for Mr Stevenson to produce his licences, no response was ever given.

Mr Stevenson was fined £300, ordered to pay a £34 victim surcharge, and costs of £1,123, bringing the total financial costs to £1,457.



Environmental portfolio holder, councillor Alison Johnston, said: *"We have a fantastic record for prosecuting those who fly-tip waste in our borough, but failing to hold the right licences to handle the waste in the first place is just as serious an offence."*

"This investigation goes to show that we will ask to see the correct documentation to ensure that the right laws are being followed, and it also enforces the fact that we will seek to prosecute if we believe it's the right course of action. I would ask that everyone who is employing somebody to handle or dispose of their waste, checks that they are licenced via the Environment Agency."

What to put in your brown bin

We only collect **paper, cardboard, tins and cans, aerosols and plastic bottles** for **recycling**. They must be clean, dry and loose. Please do not put any other materials in your brown bin. **If in doubt, leave it out!**

Paper



Cardboard



Tins and Cans



Aerosols



Plastic Bottles



 **No plastic bags or black sacks**

Keep me as a reminder!





THE TEST VALLEY TIME CAPSULE

// A film for you. Made by you //

If you live in the Test Valley, we want you to make a film about what matters to you.

The Essentials

- **You're invited to make a 2-3 minute film about your life in Test Valley**
- **Films will be used to create a 'Video Tapestry' - a time capsule of today**
- **Anyone can take part, no special equipment is needed. Help is available**

Why now?

In 1983, the people of Test Valley made a time capsule tapestry with thread, capturing a moment in the borough's history for future generations. Now, nearly 40 years later, we're doing it again, but this time, instead of thread, we're using video to create a 'digital' tapestry.

It's a similar idea - to weave together what makes us who we are - the things we care about, the people we care about. How will we look back at our lives in Test Valley 2021? What will we remember and what was most significant?

How to get involved

It's up to you to make the films - but we're here to help, with "how to" videos and regular support surgeries to help you get your films made.

You could make a film about almost anything that has meaning for you (see the four rules), or gets you excited.

So, what's on your mind? Is there something that is keeping you up at night or something that gets you out of bed in the morning? Who or what matters to you? And where are the places that offer you inspiration or comfort?

We want as many people from as many different backgrounds as possible to be part of this project, so the more people that get involved the better. So spread the word and get others involved too.



No video camera? No worries

Using a smartphone is fine. There are some 'how to' videos on our website to help you make the most of whatever video camera you have; phone, tablet, DSLR or video camera - as the saying goes "the best camera is the one you have with you."

Keep it simple and have fun

It doesn't have to be a Hollywood production (although it could be!). Keep it simple and have fun.

There are only four things to remember (without which we will not be able to include your film):

1. **Your film must be no longer than 3 minutes**
2. **Submission must be via the web form**
3. **We need to know you have the permission of everyone in the film - again, see the form**
4. **The film must be suitable for people of all ages.**



Visit www.tvcapsule.co.uk for details, inspiration or to upload your film



PERFORMANCES IN THE PARK PLANNED FOR THE SUMMER

After the summer success of 2020 when *The Lights* brought outdoor theatre to Beech Hurst Park in Andover, more theatrical delights have been announced at the location for later this year.

BlackBox Theatre will be performing Noel Coward's classic, *Blithe Spirit* on 19 June at 2pm and 6pm. Poor Charles Condomine has two wives – one most certainly living and the other most certainly dead! However, after a rather eventful séance held by the eccentric Madame Arcati, the ghost of his first wife has come to visit. What could possibly go wrong? So to enjoy alfresco acting, book your tickets via The Lights website.

In addition, the much loved *Pantaloon*s in the Park will be back on Saturday, 7 August at 2pm and 6pm with a

rip-roaringly hilarious interpretation of *Pride and Prejudice*. All tickets are £12 and available to book online.



To stay up to date with all forthcoming shows at the venue, and to book, visit: www.thelights.org.uk

COMMISSION AWARD FOR ROMSEY PUBLIC ARTWORK

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) has awarded a public art commission for Abbotswood, Romsey to Thrussells, a father and son creative art practice.

Thrussells Metal Sculptors specialise in community public art and create high quality work depicting heritage and natural history subjects made from mild steel, cor-ten, copper and stainless steel. All their work is created with their belief that public art can be for all to enjoy by creating installations with interpretation, durability, longevity, tactility and a passion for heritage and nature.

For Abbotswood, they have proposed a comprehensive sculptural trail that guides walkers around the development, highlighting key points of interest with sculptural storytelling and symbology. The project will include ten urban pointer way-markers located across the Abbotswood development at key intersections, creating a trail and directions. Four sculptural way-markers will be slightly bigger with additional detail and coloured glass. These sculptural way-markers would be located at the entry points to Abbotswood, the nature conservation area entries and the community facilities such as the community centre and play area.

The installation will also feature two sculptures to enhance the urban green spaces.

The £56,000 funding for these commissions comes directly from Section 106 developer contributions specifically set aside for public art at Abbotswood.

Artist, Thomas Thrussell said: *"This trail will take residents on a journey through time and space providing hints to the rich environment that we live in. We are delighted to have been appointed for this unique opportunity to go on a creative and inspiring journey with Abbotswood community, and are excited to bring this trail to reality with the help of the local people."*

Thrussells will begin the project with a community engagement programme that aims to reach all residents and stakeholders through research, walks, talks, workshops, exhibition activities and social media. More information on how residents and communities can get involved will be shared as soon as Covid-restrictions allow.

Community and leisure portfolio holder, councillor Ian Jeffrey said: *"This project will give the local community and stakeholders the chance to play a key role in the development of their neighbourhood. It is a prime example of how public art can be a catalyst for people to become involved and invested in their surroundings, and to care about the environment in which they live."*

CENSUS DAY IS HERE



How do I **take part** in the census?

it's about us
census 2021

With March 21 literally around the corner, Census 2021 is in full swing in Test Valley.

The letters, with unique access codes, have all gone out and responses are already coming in.

The census is a survey that occurs every ten years and helps to record official trustworthy data for people and households in England and Wales via the Office for National Statistics (ONS). This year, the survey is going digital and takes around ten minutes per person to take part.

The questionnaire includes questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces. For those aged 16 and over there are also new, voluntary questions on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

The information helps to form policy and decisions in both national and local organisations, including Test Valley Borough Council. Previous census information has contributed towards planning for the redevelopment of the town centres, and the Corporate Plan for the next few years.

Operating in line with the government's latest Covid-19 guidance, field officers

will be deployed across the country to contact those who have not responded. They will offer help and advice to those who need it. They will also remind people that their census response is required by law.

This census is the most inclusive yet. Everyone can identify as they wish using search as you type online and write-in options on paper if they need it.

The questionnaire includes questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces. For those aged 16 and over there are also new, voluntary questions on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

Iain Bell, the deputy national statistician at the ONS, said:

"A successful census will help give the best picture of the needs of everyone living in England and Wales. It helps us to understand what our society needs and what it will likely need in the future."

"It takes just ten minutes per person to take part and if you can't get online, there are paper forms available for those who need them. Now is the time to make your mark on history."

Want to know more?
visit census.gov.uk



To complete your census, and to find out how you can get help, please visit census.gov.uk or call 0800 141 2021.

Are you a landlord looking for a new tenant?

Are you a landlord who is worried about an existing tenancy?

Are you a landlord who has been impacted by The Coronavirus Act 2020?

Test Valley Lettings is a unique service provided FREE of charge to landlords with properties within the Test Valley borough.

TV Lettings can support landlords to find a new tenant, carry out viewings, inspections, inventories and provide ongoing landlord and tenant support during the tenancy. Our aim is to make every tenancy a success.

We have a new "Call Before You Serve" initiative through which we are asking landlords to call us before they serve a Notice to Quit on their tenant, to allow us the opportunity to intervene and get the tenancy back on track.

Benefits of TV Lettings:

- **FREE** dedicated landlord support from a Landlord Liaison Officer
- **FREE** dedicated tenant support from a Tenant Liaison Officer
- **FREE** 12 month membership to the National Landlord Association
- **FREE** tenant finder service with background investigations and affordability assessment
- **FREE** assistance with viewings, sign ups, check ins and check outs
- **FREE** inventory service
- 6 week deposit bond as a minimum standard
- **FREE** new tenancy visit to all new tenants within 3 weeks of move in
- **FREE** option for further tenancy inspections during the tenancy
- Pre tenancy training for potential tenants outlining tenant responsibility and landlord rights
- Honesty and transparency

Is it really FREE for Landlords?

There is no monetary charge to landlords to be part of TV Lettings, all we ask is that landlords grant new tenants a 12 month Assured Short Hold Tenancy agreement, with or without a break clause.

Contact: **Chloe Roberts, Landlord Liaison Officer**

Tel **01264 368128** or Tel **01264 368000** e mail croberts@testvalley.gov.uk

REGISTER TO VOTE FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS THIS MAY

Residents in Test Valley are being encouraged to make sure they are registered to vote for elections due to take place this spring.

Following the postponement of elections since March last year due to the coronavirus pandemic, a number of elections are taking place on Thursday 6 May 2021. These include the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Hampshire County Council and by-elections for three Test Valley Borough Council wards. Elections may also be taking place for parish and town councils in your area, as well as neighbourhood planning referendums, too.

The deadline to register to vote is Monday 19 April 2021 and this can be done online at:

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

If you need help to register in another way, please contact Electoral Services on **01264 368000** or: elecereg@testvalley.gov.uk

Polling stations will be safe places to vote at in May. However, if you are away or unable to attend the polling station on voting day, you may choose one of the following voting options:

- Apply to vote by post - Completed applications must reach the council before 5pm on Tuesday 20 April 2021.
- Apply to vote by proxy - (this means someone else can vote on your behalf). Completed applications must reach the council before 5pm on Tuesday 27 April 2021.

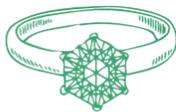
Forms for these purposes can be downloaded from:

www.testvalley.gov.uk/waystovote

If you have any further questions regarding postal or proxy voting, please contact Electoral Services via postal.voting@testvalley.gov.uk or **01264 368000**.

Andover Artisan Market

hand crafted



QUALITY

UNIQUE

The Andover Artisan Markets will run throughout 2021, and are part of a broader programme of events planned to encourage people to visit Andover High Street and support the town.

The markets involve a wide range of local traders and give customers the chance to shop locally and support local businesses. They are an important part of a wider calendar of events in Andover High Street.



- 21 Mar
- 18 Apr
- 16 May
- 20 Jun
- 18 Jul
- 15 Aug
- 19 Sep
- 17 Oct
- 21 Nov
- 19 Dec

COUNCIL TAX 2021/22

The Test Valley Borough Council, as Billing Authority for the Test Valley Borough Council area, on the 26th day of February 2021, calculated and set in accordance with Section 30, Local Government Finance Act 1992 the following amounts of Council Tax for the year 2021/2022 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Parish/area of	Category of Dwelling (Banding)							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Abbotts Ann	1230.54	1435.64	1640.72	1845.82	2256.00	2666.18	3076.36	3691.64
Ampfield	1226.84	1431.33	1635.79	1840.27	2249.21	2658.16	3067.11	3680.54
Amport	1211.11	1412.98	1614.82	1816.68	2220.38	2624.09	3027.79	3633.36
Andover Town	1224.97	1429.15	1633.30	1837.47	2245.79	2654.12	3062.44	3674.94
Appleshaw	1228.89	1433.72	1638.53	1843.35	2252.98	2662.61	3072.24	3686.70
Awbridge	1216.01	1418.70	1621.35	1824.03	2229.36	2634.71	3040.04	3648.06
Barton Stacey	1232.16	1437.53	1642.88	1848.25	2258.97	2669.69	3080.41	3696.50
Braishfield	1237.12	1443.33	1649.50	1855.70	2268.07	2680.45	3092.82	3711.40
Broughton	1230.46	1435.56	1640.62	1845.71	2255.86	2666.02	3076.17	3691.42
Bullington	1229.18	1434.07	1638.92	1843.79	2253.51	2663.25	3072.97	3687.58
Charlton	1212.90	1415.07	1617.21	1819.37	2223.67	2627.98	3032.27	3638.74
Chilbolton	1215.42	1418.01	1620.57	1823.15	2228.29	2633.44	3038.57	3646.30
Chilworth	1227.48	1432.07	1636.64	1841.23	2250.39	2659.55	3068.71	3682.46
East Dean	1221.72	1425.36	1628.97	1832.60	2239.84	2647.09	3054.32	3665.20
East Tytherley	1226.71	1431.18	1635.62	1840.08	2248.98	2657.89	3066.79	3680.16
Enham Alamein	1217.06	1419.92	1622.75	1825.60	2231.28	2636.97	3042.66	3651.20
Fyfield	1241.61	1448.56	1655.49	1862.43	2276.30	2690.17	3104.04	3724.86
Goodworth Clatford	1241.92	1448.93	1655.90	1862.90	2276.87	2690.85	3104.82	3725.80
Grateley	1219.03	1422.22	1625.38	1828.56	2234.90	2641.25	3047.59	3657.12
Houghton	1235.37	1441.28	1647.17	1853.07	2264.86	2676.65	3088.44	3706.14
Hurstbourne Tarrant	1223.64	1427.60	1631.53	1835.48	2243.36	2651.25	3059.12	3670.96
Kimpton	1234.74	1440.55	1646.33	1852.13	2263.71	2675.30	3086.87	3704.26
King's Somborne	1255.72	1465.02	1674.30	1883.59	2302.16	2720.74	3139.31	3767.18
Lockerley	1231.07	1436.27	1641.43	1846.62	2256.97	2667.34	3077.69	3693.24
Longparish	1241.60	1448.55	1655.47	1862.41	2276.27	2690.14	3104.01	3724.82
Longstock	1223.84	1427.84	1631.80	1835.78	2243.72	2651.68	3059.62	3671.56
Melchet Park & Plaitford	1214.66	1417.13	1619.56	1822.01	2226.89	2631.79	3036.67	3644.02
Michelmersham & Timsbury	1220.35	1423.76	1627.14	1830.54	2237.32	2644.11	3050.89	3661.08
Monxton	1233.20	1438.76	1644.28	1849.82	2260.88	2671.96	3083.02	3699.64
Mottisfont	1226.42	1430.84	1635.23	1839.64	2248.44	2657.25	3066.06	3679.28
Nether Wallop	1270.45	1482.21	1693.94	1905.69	2329.17	2752.66	3176.14	3811.38
North Baddesley	1235.12	1441.00	1646.84	1852.70	2264.40	2676.12	3087.82	3705.40
Nursling & Rownhams	1215.10	1417.64	1620.14	1822.67	2227.70	2632.74	3037.77	3645.34
Over Wallop	1224.46	1428.56	1632.62	1836.71	2244.86	2653.02	3061.17	3673.42
Penton Grafton	1216.32	1419.06	1621.77	1824.50	2229.94	2635.39	3040.82	3649.00
Penton Mewsey	1243.20	1450.42	1657.61	1864.82	2279.22	2693.63	3108.02	3729.64
Quarley	1223.65	1427.61	1631.54	1835.49	2243.37	2651.26	3059.14	3670.98
Romsey Extra	1212.98	1415.17	1617.32	1819.49	2223.81	2628.15	3032.47	3638.98
Romsey Town	1234.06	1439.76	1645.42	1851.11	2262.46	2673.82	3085.17	3702.22
Sherfield English	1217.76	1420.73	1623.68	1826.65	2232.57	2638.49	3044.41	3653.30
Shipton Bellinger	1238.42	1444.84	1651.23	1857.64	2270.44	2683.25	3096.06	3715.28
Smannell	1210.39	1412.14	1613.86	1815.60	2219.06	2622.53	3025.99	3631.20
Stockbridge	1236.72	1442.85	1648.96	1855.09	2267.33	2679.57	3091.81	3710.18
Tangle	1231.16	1436.38	1641.56	1846.76	2257.14	2667.54	3077.92	3693.52
Thrupton	1232.67	1438.13	1643.57	1849.02	2259.91	2670.80	3081.69	3698.04
Upper Clatford	1214.10	1416.46	1618.80	1821.16	2225.86	2630.56	3035.26	3642.32
Valley Park	1206.13	1407.17	1608.18	1809.21	2211.25	2613.30	3015.34	3618.42
Vernham Dean	1220.48	1423.91	1627.31	1830.73	2237.55	2644.38	3051.21	3661.46
Wellow	1227.92	1432.60	1637.24	1841.90	2251.20	2660.52	3069.82	3683.80
WestTytherley, Frenchmoor & Buckholt	1228.17	1432.88	1637.57	1842.27	2251.66	2661.05	3070.44	3684.54
Wherwell	1221.49	1425.09	1628.66	1832.25	2239.41	2646.58	3053.74	3664.50
All other parts of the Council's area	1197.49	1397.09	1596.66	1796.25	2195.41	2594.58	2993.74	3592.50

Head of Finance & Revenues, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, Hampshire SP10 3AJ. 26th February 2021

Council meetings

All council meetings are currently being held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Members of the public can listen to the meetings live via the specific meeting's page at www.testvalley.gov.uk. Meeting details are correct at the time of printing. For more information, please visit the council's website.

March 2021

10 March	Cabinet	5.30pm
11 March	Northern Area Planning Committee	5.30pm
16 March	Southern Area Planning Committee	5.30pm
17 March	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	5.30pm
18 March	Licensing	5.30pm

April 2021

1 April	Northern Area Planning Committee	5.30pm
6 April	Southern Area Planning Committee	5.30pm
7 April	Council	5.30pm
14 April	General Purposes Committee	4.00pm
14 April	Cabinet	5.30pm
15 April	Licensing	5.30pm
21 April	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	5.30pm

Different formats

Different formats of Test Valley News are available for anyone who has difficulty reading this publication. Please call the Chief Executive's office on **01264 368108**.

For your information

The aim of Test Valley News is to keep the borough's residents up to date with relevant information about the public services and facilities available to them, as well as other important local news.

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Advertising:

Test Valley Borough Council has certain statutory and regulatory duties. Appearance of any advertising in this publication should not be considered an endorsement from the council of any organisation to which these duties apply. As part of the council's commitment to enhance and preserve the environment, Test Valley News is printed on recycled paper.

For more information see: www.testvalley.gov.uk or call the Editor on **01264 368108**.

Who to contact



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Head of Planning and Building	Paul Jackson
Head of Environmental Services	Paul Wykes
Head of Community and Leisure	Dave Tasker
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