



# Test Valley News

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## Royalty in Romsey



Romsey was the centre of attention this summer when crowds lined the streets eagerly awaiting the arrival of HRH Princess Anne who would unveil the much anticipated War Horse statue in the town's War Memorial Park.

The statue of the horse and its trooper was created in memory of the thousands of horses, mules and donkeys that passed through the Romsey Remount Depot at Pauncefoot Hill during the First World War. The Army Remount Service used the depot to assign the animals to the various army regiments and it was also used as an area to train and recuperate up to 5,000 horses at a time.

The Princess unveiled the statue after she joined a procession through Romsey to arrive in the park. She was escorted by Mayor of Romsey, Councillor Dorothy Baverstock, and introduced to councillors and council staff as well as the Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Iris Andersen. The Princess had a long conversation with Amy Goodman, the artist behind the spectacular bronze war horse statue.

And the war horse isn't the only new addition to the park. Just across the grass, a brand new kiosk has been built to provide visitors with a place to buy delicious snacks, hire tennis equipment

or simply relax with a cup of tea or coffee. The project took five months to complete and has seen the creation of a new seating area and the planting of new flower beds to add colour and soften and enhance the setting of the new facility.

Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Iris Andersen, marked the facility's official opening with the cutting of a cake on Sunday, 16 August. Residents, local councillors and kiosk staff came together to celebrate the new building in glorious sunshine.

Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder, Councillor Tony Ward, said: *"The new kiosk is a fantastic facility. It looks great in the park and I am really pleased with the finished building. It has been hugely popular since opening and I have no doubt that it will prove a great success going forward."*

*I'd like to say a big thank you to all those involved in the project. You have done Romsey proud."*



## A\* for Andover!

From Hampshire County Council's project to improve Newbury Street, the upper High Street and Chantry Street, to the planting of fantastic new floral displays, it has certainly been a busy summer for Andover!

And this hasn't gone unnoticed, as the town has been named as one of the top five most improved high streets in the country as part of the Great British High Street competition! The announcement highlights the success of the work undertaken in recent years to enhance the town centre, including the work of the Andover Summit, Town Centre Partnership and Encounters project. Some of the key achievements include the introduction of pop-up shops and the Independent Retailer Grant, the cleaning and refurbishment of street furniture, and the launch of the Andover Farmers' and Crafts Market.

The town's shopping mall, the Chantry Centre, has also recently received a makeover with new signs and facades, which look bright, modern and welcoming and add a splash of colour to the High Street.

So with a touch of TLC and an increasing variety of shops, the town is going from strength to strength.

And there's still more to come!

Work continues to progress the installation of the seven decorative wrought iron arches, which will direct the public to shops along the lanes off the High Street. Designed by renowned artist Peter Clutterbuck, the first three arches set to be put forward for planning permission in November will be Union Street, George Yard and King's Yard. Black Swan Yard, Waterloo Court, Shaw's Walk and Globe Yard will follow at a later date once we have undertaken further work to assess the sites. We will be updating residents on the project's progress over the coming months, so keep an eye on the Council's website and social media pages.

Projects outside the town centre also continue. The Council has recently purchased the Magistrates' Court and has gained planning permission to create a new pay and display car park at the site.

# Elections 2015

In May 2015, Test Valley Borough Council held Parliamentary, Borough and Parish Council elections. More than 200 ballot boxes were used in 90 polling stations and almost 94,000 electors cast their vote either in person, by post or by proxy.

We have included an updated ward map below so you can see who your local councillors are and which party they represent.

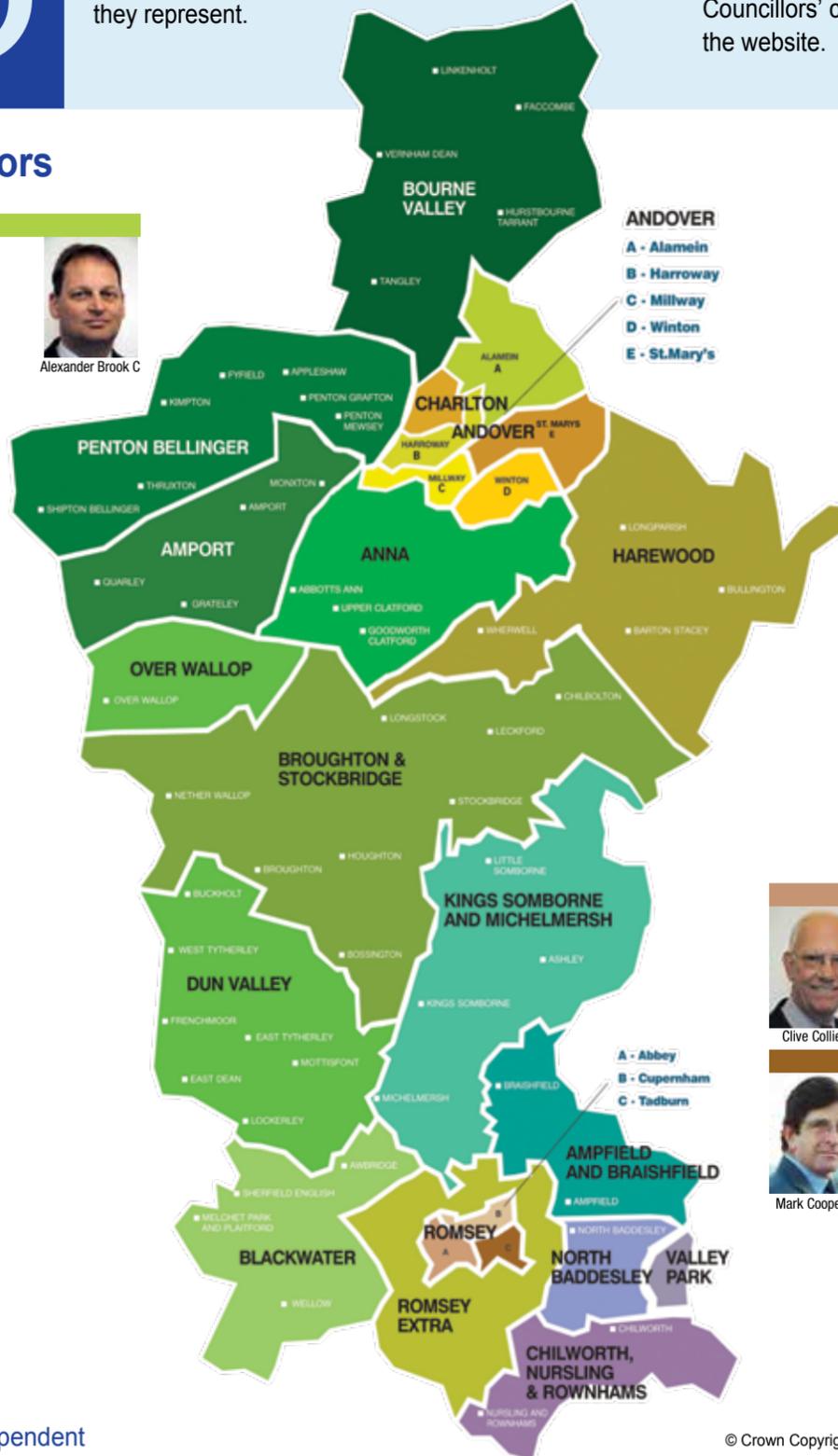
Test Valley Borough Council is made up of 48 councillors who cover 24 wards in a mixture of rural and urban areas. Some wards have one councillor while larger wards have up to three.

You can find out more about your local councillor by visiting [www.testvalley.gov.uk](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk) and searching by postcode, ward, party or the councillor's name. Councillors' contact details are also available on the website.

## Test Valley Borough - Councillors

September 2015

 Martin Hatley C	 Benjamin Few Brown I	 Tracey Preston C	 Phil North C	 Alexander Brook C
Andover - Harroway				
 Brian Page C	 Carl Borg-Neal C	 Karen Hamilton C		
Andover - Millway				
 Sandra Hawke C	 James Neal C	 Zillah Brooks C		
Andover St Mary's				
 Iris Andersen C	 John Cockaday C	 David Denny C		
Andover - Winton				
 Christopher Lynn C	 Jan Budzynski C	 Jan Lovell I		
Anna		Blackwater		
 Maureen Flood C	 Graham Stallard C	 Nick Adams-King C	 Gordon Bailey C	
Bourne Valley		Broughton & Stockbridge		Charlton
 Peter Giddings C	 Peter Boulton C	 Daniel Busk C	 Ian Carr C	



Chilworth, Nursling & Rowhams		
 Nigel Anderdon C	 Philip Bundy C	 Alison Finlay C
Dun Valley		Kings Somborne & Michelmersh
 Ian Jeffrey C	 David Drew C	 Tony Ward C
North Baddesley		
 Ann Tupper LD	 Celia Dowden LD	 Stephen Cosier LD
Over Wallop		Penton Bellinger
 Tony Hope C	 Pam Mutton C	 Phil Lashbrook C
Romsey - Abbey		Romsey - Cupernham
 Clive Collier C	 Ian Richards C	 Dorothy Baverstock LD
Romsey - Tadburn		Romsey Extra
 Mark Cooper LD	 Peter Hurst LD	 Ian Hibberd C
Valley Park		
 Alan Dowden LD	 Katherine Tilling LD	 Andrew Beesley LD

C - Conservative, LD - Liberal Democrats, I - Independent

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## Are you registered to vote?

Police and Crime Commissioner elections are scheduled to take place on Thursday, 5 May 2016. There will also be a referendum on Britain's membership of the EU before the end of 2017, although the exact date of this is yet to be announced. If you are not registered, you cannot vote and your opinion will not count. Not being on the Electoral Register can also affect your credit rating.

The way that people register to vote changed in June 2014. The new system is called Individual Electoral Registration and means that everyone aged 16 or over is now responsible for registering themselves, although you cannot actually vote until you are 18. Under the old system, the head of the household could register everyone who lived at their address.

To register, visit [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). If you don't have access to the internet, or you require support, please contact Test Valley Borough Council for assistance. You will need to provide your National Insurance number and date of birth which is intended to make the electoral register more secure.

Test Valley Borough Council wrote to all households over the summer to ask

residents to confirm whether the information held on the register about their property was correct, and to advise them on what they needed to do if there were any changes to that information. It is important that residents respond to this form. This can be done over the phone, online or by returning the form in the pre-paid envelope supplied with the letter. Residents are encouraged to respond as soon as possible if they have not already done so.

If you are not sure if you're registered, simply contact the Council and we will be able to tell you. If you aren't, you can register online or we will send you the forms you need to complete.

If you are unable to get to a polling station on polling day you can apply to vote by post or you can appoint someone else, known as a proxy, to vote for you.

Test Valley Borough Council's Electoral Services team can be contacted on **01264 368000** or [elecereg@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:elecereg@testvalley.gov.uk)

To find out more about the changes to the registration system and why they have been made, visit [www.gov.uk/yourvotematters](http://www.gov.uk/yourvotematters)

# Devolution deal

Devolution has become the hot topic in local government, following the referendum on Scottish independence. It is about councils taking on powers and responsibilities which were previously exercised by central government. The aims are to boost growth and increase productivity locally, as well as making local government more efficient.

The ultimate goal is about securing long term prosperity for our residents and businesses.

Councils have been invited to submit proposals for 'devolution deals' to the Chancellor, George Osborne. In September, Test Valley Borough Council joined all the other principal councils in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in submitting a prospectus which contained our proposals for a deal.

The councils are seeking to become more financially independent by giving up the traditional grants reallocated by central government from taxes, in exchange for keeping all business rates collected in the area. They will also be seeking greater control over strategic

services which are not currently managed or determined locally, such as:

- funding for skills, training and business support (the involvement of Local Enterprise Partnerships will be crucial)
- funding for key infrastructure
- better co-ordination of public transport systems
- investment in, and management of, motorways.

Councils are offering to commit to building more homes in priority categories such as low cost starter homes and rural affordable homes. They are also offering to work towards accelerating the delivery of existing housing commitments. They are keen to tackle the problem of developers 'sitting on' planning permissions instead of implementing them.

The prospectus does not envisage creating a new tier of government. The 15 councils all support a 'Combined Authority' on which each council would participate in decision making over the new powers and responsibilities.

It is expected that the Chancellor will make an announcement about successful devolution bids in the last week of November.

## Universal Credit

Universal Credit is a single monthly payment that merges together some of the benefits which you might be receiving if you are out of work or on a low income.

Universal Credit is being introduced in phases. The first phase began on 21 September 2015 and allows single jobseekers without any dependent children to claim under the new system, subject to an eligibility check.

The Council has been working with organisations in the Test Valley Employment and Skills Zone partnership to help benefit claimants

to understand how the new system will affect them. A number of successful projects have also been set up to make it easier for residents to find employment and training opportunities.

More than 70 laptops and computers have been made available across 13 venues in the borough. Volunteers and mentors have been recruited to offer support at some of these venues at specific times during the week so that members of the public can drop in and receive help with job hunting, CV writing and other related topics. The computers are also available outside these hours on a self-serve basis.

To find out if you are eligible to claim Universal Credit, visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) or telephone the Universal Credit helpline on 0345 600 0723.

## Are you looking for a venue?

Test Valley Borough Council owns and manages a number of buildings in the borough that are available for members of the public to hire.

Whether you need a grand venue such as Andover's Guildhall for a wedding, or a large space like Crosfield Hall for a business meeting, one of our local facilities could be just what you're looking for. Venues are available to hire at varying rates to suit your needs and a concessionary rate is also available to registered charities. To view a list of venues and to find out more about all they have to offer, visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk/business](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/business)



## Testbourne Community School Learning and Leisure

We run a comprehensive programme of community activities, so if you are looking for a new challenge, sport or creative art, then drop us a line.

We also hire out the school facilities to local community groups.

Contact: [p.bushell@testbourne.hants.sch.uk](mailto:p.bushell@testbourne.hants.sch.uk)  
or phone: 01256 892261

[www.testbourne.hants.sch.uk/community](http://www.testbourne.hants.sch.uk/community)



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## Need to contact the Council? There's an app for that!

My Test Valley is a brand new smartphone app which allows residents to report issues such as street cleaning and waste and recycling concerns to the Council quickly and easily. The app is simple to use, free of charge and even works with the mapping software on your phone so you can pinpoint exactly where in the borough you are reporting from.

Simply use the app to tell us your concern and we'll look into it for you. You'll also receive updates on how your report is progressing.

My Test Valley is available to download from the Apple App Store for iPhones and iPads, Google Play for Android phones, or the Windows Store for Windows phones.

### Don't have a smartphone?

The Council's website follows the same system as the app. If you'd prefer to

log your concern this way, simply visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk) and click on **Report** on the blue banner at the top of the homepage.



Don't forget to like us on **Facebook**  
and follow us on **Twitter**

**f TestValleyBC** **@TestValleyBC**

## Investing in Test Valley

Earlier this year, the Council launched its new corporate plan, **Investing in Test Valley**, which sets out the authority's key priorities for the next four years.

We wrote the plan following extensive consultation with residents, businesses and other stakeholders. We also took statistical data and external influences, such as government policy, into account to provide a robust plan made up of four strategic areas.

The full plan, including the first year Corporate Action Plan, can be found at [www.testvalley.gov.uk](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk)

Investing in Test Valley 2015-2019 aims to make the borough a great place to:

- **live**, where the supply of homes reflects local needs
- **work** and do business
- **enjoy** the natural and built environment
- **contribute** to and be part of a strong community.



## New home for Youth in Romsey

Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council have joined forces to fund ambitious plans for a purpose-built facility for Youth in Romsey.

Youth in Romsey is a confidential support centre for young people aged 11 to 25. To date, the centre has operated from a three-floor unit in Bell Street but it is set to move to a new home, which will offer a fully accessible, modern and inviting space next to

Romsey Sports Centre. It will have the added advantage of direct access to outside space and activity areas, and will be close to the town centre.

The facility will also include a community area which can be used for a variety of different activities, and will be available for other community groups to hire.

**Building work is due to start imminently, with completion set for the end of the year.**



## Valley Leisure Memberships

An inclusive membership with Valley Leisure gives you access to all 4 sites including 2 state of the art gyms, 2 swimming pools, over 150 group exercise classes, racquet sports and more!

For more information or to join online today, visit [www.valleyleisure.co.uk](http://www.valleyleisure.co.uk)



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- Ofsted

"Top 50 List of the Most Improved Schools in England."  
David Laws  
Minister for Schools Feb 2015

Harrow Way is widely acknowledged as a very successful school dedicated to the achievement and well-being of all of its students. We are a Mathematics and Computing Specialist School as well as being recognised by the National Arts Council with their prestigious Artsmark Gold Award. In addition we have been awarded Healthy School, Investors in People, Unicef Rights Respecting School, Secondary Geography Quality Mark 2014 status and are a member of the Network of Teaching Excellence in Computer Science.

Come and discover what makes this school so special and join in our success.

Visitors to the school are always welcome. Please contact us to arrange a tour.

Learning for life, success for all.



## Green Flags awarded in Test Valley... again!

Romsey War Memorial Park, Valley Park Woodlands Local Nature Reserve in Chandlers Ford and Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve in Andover continue to be some of the very best outdoor spaces in the UK – and that's official.

The park and local nature reserves have each received the prestigious Green Flag award which recognises that the spaces boast the highest possible standards, are beautifully maintained and have excellent facilities.

Valley Park Woodlands has won a green flag for six consecutive years while Rooksbury Mill celebrates its seventh. Romsey War Memorial Park

has now collected eight consecutive Green Flag Awards, despite suffering from flooding in 2014.



Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder, Councillor Tony Ward, said: *"We are really pleased to have received Green Flag Awards from Keep Britain Tidy for another year. These awards recognise and highlight that people in Test Valley are benefiting from green spaces of the very highest quality."*

## RSPCA Gold Footprint award

Test Valley Borough Council has won the RSPCA's Gold Stray Dog Footprint award once again!

This means that the authority has won the gold or silver award every year since the scheme launched in 2008. The award celebrates good practice by rewarding organisations that exceed basic and

statutory animal welfare requirements.

The Council responds to reports of almost 200 stray dogs every year. From April 2016 it will be a legal requirement to microchip your dog. For more information about how you can prepare for this, please contact the Council's Animal Welfare Officer on **01264 368000**.

## Fishlake Meadows

In the spring issue of Test Valley News, we announced that Test Valley Borough Council was preparing to take over the management of Fishlake Meadows Local Nature Reserve. And we are continuing our work to do just that.

As part of the process, we asked residents to get involved in shaping the future of the area. More than 130 people took part in guided walks, while many others browsed displays at the Town Hall, Former Magistrates' Court and Romsey market.

If you'd like to see a summary of the feedback received so far, simply visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk/fishlakemeadows](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/fishlakemeadows)

## Easing the way to Enham

Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Iris Andersen, and Alamein ward councillors, Councillor Phil North and Councillor Tracey Preston, officially opened Enham Way on Saturday, 18 July.

Enham Way is an accessible path, 3.4 miles long, between Enham Alamein and Andover. The path has been upgraded to give wheelchair users and people with limited mobility a greater opportunity to travel to and from Andover. The wider, flatter path makes it safer and easier for residents to travel to the town centre independently.

Alamein ward councillors led the project in partnership with Enham Trust,

Hampshire County Council, Andover Shopmobility and Aster Communities.



Photo courtesy of Enham Trust

For more information about Enham Trust and the Enham Way, visit [www.enhamtrust.org.uk](http://www.enhamtrust.org.uk)

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**OPEN EVENTS**

Tue 6 Oct 2015  
4.30pm - 8pm

.....

Wed 7 Oct 2015  
4.30pm - 8pm

.....

Wed 18 Nov 2015  
4.30pm - 8pm

.....

Thu 4 Feb 2016  
4.30pm - 7.30pm

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**Public art in Test Valley**



From the Millennium Man to the marvellous war horse statue, public art plays a major role in enhancing the borough and attracting visitors.

Abbotswood, near Romsey, is the next area in line for an exciting new public art project. New Forest-based wood sculptor Nicola Henshaw is currently working with local residents to gather inspiration for an art trail which will explore the area's modern history. A

series of small sculptures, benches, way markers and storytelling panels will direct residents between Abbotswood and Romsey.

You can find out more about Nicola's projects through her blog at [www.romseytoabbotswood.org](http://www.romseytoabbotswood.org)

**Pirates and play parks at Picket Twenty**

Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Iris Andersen, officially opened the first children's play park at Picket Twenty on Saturday, 8 August.

Named Quicksilver Cove, the play park is based on the theme of a pirate shipwreck and is perfectly positioned on the public open space at Quicksilver Way.

Designed by HAGS SMP, a playground designer and manufacturer, the park includes a variety of equipment, which encourages imaginative and adventurous play. Ideas expressed by residents as part of a public consultation, which invited families to have an input into the design of the park, informed the theme, material, style and type of play equipment included in the design.

Residents and trustees of the Picket Twenty Community Association held a free family Pirates in the Park event on the day of the opening to celebrate the completion of the facility.

Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder, Councillor Tony Ward, said: *"This is such a great play park and I am absolutely delighted it is finished. It is already proving extremely popular with residents and I hope it will be well used for years to come. Quicksilver Cove is the first of a number of facilities planned for the development because facilities like this help to bring communities together. It's great to see this new neighbourhood continue to grow successfully. Thank you and well done to all involved."*



**Hundreds attend festival to fight dementia**



The first ever Demfest festival, which aimed to raise awareness of dementia and support anyone affected by the condition, was held at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens in September.

Organised by Romsey Dementia Awareness Group (ROMDAG) and supported by Hampshire County Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Andover Mind, Demfest was a huge success with almost 700 people attending to learn relaxation and reminiscence therapies and enjoy live music, singing and a vintage vehicle display.

## Council completes purchase of Andover Magistrates' Court

On Friday 3 July, Test Valley Borough Council completed the purchase of the Andover Magistrates' Court site from the Ministry of Justice. The Council had been working closely in partnership with Hampshire County Council to acquire the site since it ceased to be used as a Magistrates' Court.

Building on the very successful arrangements for the existing shared public sector hubs in both Romsey and Andover, Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council will together be exploring options for this latest opportunity in Andover town centre.

In the meantime the Council has received planning permission to use the car parking area around the Magistrates' Court for additional town centre pay and display parking, which will be particularly valuable to customers of The Lights and the Leisure Centre.

Leader of Test Valley Borough Council, Councillor Ian Carr, said: *"I am delighted that we are now in a position to announce the purchase of the Magistrates' Court. We have been working closely with Hampshire County Council for a long time to acquire the site. This is another important addition to the Council's property portfolio, which now gives the Council a strategic freehold site stretching from Western Avenue and West Street to Marlborough Street and Chantry Street. I look forward to moving forward with the site development."*

Leader of Hampshire County Council and Executive Member for Policy and Resources, Councillor Roy Perry, said: *"We are always keen to work more closely with our local authority partners, so that together we can ensure access to services is designed around customers rather than the organisations that deliver them. This is a good opportunity to enhance access to public services in Andover."*

## Victoria Cross recipient remembered

**Tributes have been paid to Major Lanoe Hawker, a soldier who was awarded a Victoria Cross for heroism during the First World War. Major Hawker was born in Longparish in 1890. In 1915, he bravely attacked and brought down three German aircraft and received the Victoria Cross for his bravery. He died in a dog fight with the infamous Red Baron the following year.**

A commemorative paving slab was unveiled at Longparish Village Hall in July to mark the centenary of the event which earned Major Hawker the prestigious award. A short ceremony

followed the unveiling before guests enjoyed refreshments in the village hall.

Sergeant Frederick Luke, born in West Tytherley in 1895, was another former Test Valley resident to be awarded the Victoria Cross. In 1914, he voluntarily assisted in the retrieval of a captured gun under heavy fire from the enemy.

A commemorative paving slab was unveiled in his memory at Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall in August 2014. Both ceremonies have been part of the government-sponsored scheme to commemorate local recipients of the award.

## Your county needs you

Together we can make Hampshire a safer county for the over 65's

**you** can play your part if you know someone over 65 who needs...

- Help with testing their smoke alarm
- Advice on planning what action to take in the event of a fire
- A home safety visit from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service is here to help

To get involved and find out more call **023 8062 6809** or visit [www.hantsfire.gov.uk/homesafetyvisits](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/homesafetyvisits)



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## Test Valley Community Services

### Community Transport

**Dial-a-ride (door to door) services**  
For weekly shopping trips

**Wheelchair accessible transport**  
For groups and individuals

**Minibuses for hire**  
For community/voluntary groups, organisations and schools

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### Andover Shopmobility

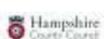
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Test Valley Community Services  
charity no: 1061655



### Mottisfont

A romantic house and gallery set in beautiful gardens beside the River Test, with a year round events programme to suit all the family.

**Arborealists: the Art of Trees**

19 September - 15 November

**A Christmas Carol**

28 November - 3 January (closed 24 & 25 Dec)

**Thelwell: Ponies and Places**

17 January - 10 April

01794 340757

[nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont)

[f](https://www.facebook.com/MottisfontNT) [t](https://twitter.com/MottisfontNT) @MottisfontNT

**National Trust**

## New season of entertainment

The autumn and winter season at **The Lights** has begun but more is on its way to see you through the colder months. The season is packed full of a wide variety of acts that will have you laughing, singing and dancing the night away.

Even before the first shows started in September, five top names – Rob Beckett, Midge Ure, Jo Brand, Jenny Éclair and Ed Byrne were sold out.

The venue has everything from comedians who regularly appear on popular TV shows like *Mock the Week*, *Never Mind the Buzzcocks* and *Have I Got News for You*, to 80s music legends, rock tribute acts, jazz and swing orchestras and even enchanting ballet performances.

There is plenty to appeal to younger audiences too with the hugely popular *Sing-a-long-a Frozen*, the *Snow Play* and other wonderful magical productions.

During the Christmas period, there will be a range of festive family entertainment and some great party nights. There really is something for everyone, so book early to avoid disappointment!

To find out more, call into **The Lights** and pick up a brochure.

To buy tickets or to join the mailing list, visit [www.thelights.org.uk](http://www.thelights.org.uk) or call the Box Office on **01264 368368**. You can also follow **The Lights** on Twitter and Facebook.



## Romsey Future

**Romsey Future** is a partnership project made up of voluntary, business and public sector organisations. Its main aim is to establish a long term vision that will enable partners to deliver a range of projects to improve the town and its facilities.

The project commenced in November 2013 with an independently facilitated workshop, attended by various organisations from across the town. Participants were asked to imagine what a successful Romsey would look like in 20 years' time.

A number of ideas and proposed actions were generated throughout the day. These ideas have now been tested and developed through consultation with more than 1,000 people from the Romsey area. A final piece of public consultation took place this summer to help produce the first version of the **Romsey Future Vision and Action Plan**, which will be published in December.

Partner organisations will be asked to sign up to the vision and action plan, which will highlight the areas where initial efforts will be directed.

Councillor Martin Hatley, who has been leading the project, said: *"The Romsey Future partnership has already helped to deliver a number of practical initiatives that were identified through the initial consultations, including the extension of the Romsey and Woodley café drop-in sessions, the enhancement works at Church Street and improving the War Memorial Park kiosk designs."*

*"I am very pleased that Romsey Future is a true partnership project which has involved people from across the spectrum of community life in Romsey. On Saturday, 12 December at 10am, we will be holding the launch event for our first Vision and Action Plan document at Crosfield Hall. Members of the public are invited to attend to hear all about our work and the things we hope to achieve together over the next few years. This will become an annual event for stakeholders and the public to influence the direction of Romsey Future as our ideas develop."*

The main themes emerging are:

- getting around Romsey
- enhancing Romsey
- enjoying Romsey
- living in and around Romsey
- the economy of southern Test Valley.



## Get ready to switch on Christmas!

The nights are drawing in and that can only mean one thing: it's time for the annual Christmas lights switch-on event in Andover High Street! This year's event, hosted by Test Valley Borough Council, will take place on Friday, 20 November from 5pm to 7.30pm.

Street theatre acts will be mingling among the crowds, Father Christmas will be stopping by and the stage will play host to a range of local performers including the Portway Glee Club, the Long Overdue Theatre Company, Sing for Fun and local singers Jayne Deer, John Springett, Jamie Walsh and Jake Ward.

The Breeze will compère the evening, which will also offer rides and

attractions, children's face painting and delicious food to keep you warm, including a giant paella, Thai noodles, nachos and a barbecue.

The Big TV screen will once again grace the High Street to make sure that you don't miss anything that is going on, and there will be lots to see!

The evening will culminate in the Christmas lights switch on followed by a grand firework display, sponsored by the Chantry Centre.

The event is sponsored by Basepoint and the Christmas tree and lights are provided by Andover Town Council.

**So make a date in your diary and start the countdown to Christmas.**

## Get Christmas shopping wrapped up early at **The Lights Food and Gift Fair**

This year's **Wrapped Up** event at **The Lights Arena** café bar will be bigger and better than ever! The extended food and gift fair will take place on Saturday, 28 November from 10am to 3pm, and entry is free.

All your Christmas present shopping needs will be catered for, with more than 40 stalls filling the venue with festive inspired gifts and goodies galore!

Indulge yourself or choose presents for others from the wide range of cakes, chutneys, chocolates, jewellery, crafts, Christmas decorations and wreaths,

books, plants and glassware on offer.

Free face painting and an activity table will be available to keep the little ones amused, and festive food and drink will be on sale in the café to keep energy levels from flagging. The perfect opportunity to get ahead with the Christmas shopping.

## Apprenticeships with Test Valley Borough Council

**Test Valley Borough Council offers a number of apprenticeship opportunities for young people looking to kick start their career.**

The apprenticeship programme allows students to balance their education with work experience to help them to develop transferable skills that will benefit their future careers.

Opportunities are available in departments across the authority, enabling apprentices to get involved in a range of areas from customer services to legal administration.

Test Valley Borough Council's Legal and Democratic Assistant, Jordan Boon, is one of several employees who started their career at the Council as an apprentice. Alongside her Level Two Business Administration qualification

at Andover College, Jordan worked in the Council's General Office providing administrative support. She also helped out in other departments to build experience in finance, customer service and elections, and later won her college's Apprenticeship Achievement Award.

Jordan said: *"I enjoyed doing my apprenticeship because it meant I could benefit from work experience at the same time as studying for a formal qualification. I'd like to thank the Council for the support while I was managing both parts of the programme."*

To find out more about the Council's apprenticeship vacancies, visit [www.hampshirejobs.org.uk](http://www.hampshirejobs.org.uk)



Photo courtesy of FSB

## Business friendly awards

Test Valley Borough Council continues to be recognised as business friendly by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB).

We were the only council in the FSB's Wessex region to be Highly Commended in this year's awards in both the best overall business friendly council and for the most innovative programme.

Pictured top: Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Carr, accepts the Best All Round Small Business Friendliness commendation from Martin McTague from the Federation of Small Businesses.

## Andover Skills Training Fund

The Andover Skills Training Fund has helped more than 340 residents enhance their careers by funding qualifications in areas such as customer services and manual handling.

The Council secured the £500,000 Andover Skills Training Fund as part of its planning agreement for Andover Business Park. The fund aims to encourage Andover businesses to offer skills training to employees living within the SP10 postcode, Picket Twenty, Picket Piece and Augusta Park.

The fund has now supported around 130 businesses to raise productivity by investing in developing the skills of their workforce. It has enabled businesses to generate higher revenue and has helped create around 100 new jobs.

The Andover Skills Training Fund works on a matched funding basis and businesses must employ fewer than 100 people to be eligible. For more information, please visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk)



Image courtesy of New Forest District Council

Businesses across the whole of rural Test Valley are set to benefit from funding opportunities from the government's LEADER programme.

The LEADER programme aims to support development projects that will revitalise rural areas and create new jobs. Funding is available to local businesses, communities, farmers, foresters and land managers via their Local Action Group (LAG).

Test Valley is now covered by three LAGs. The North Wessex Downs LAG continues to cover Bourne Valley, the New Forest LAG covers southern Test Valley and, thanks to the new Loddon and Test LAG, the rest of the borough is now also eligible to apply for funding.

Each programme offers a range of funding opportunities with grants from £2,500 (£5,000 for North Wessex

Downs) up to £50,000, which can be used for projects which contribute to the rural economy, community and environment.

There are seven different grants available in the following categories:

- increasing farm productivity
- increasing forest productivity
- growth of micro and small enterprises
- farm diversification
- development of rural tourism and recreation
- rural community services, and
- cultural and heritage assets and events.

Details of the LEADER grants can be found at [www.testvalley.gov.uk/business/rural](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/business/rural)

Shop for longer this Christmas with one hour's free car parking on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Simply purchase a minimum of one hour's parking and gain another hour free of charge.

## More grants given

So far in 2015, Test Valley Borough Council has awarded 30 Business Incentive Grants to local entrepreneurs who have taken the plunge to launch their own company. The £500 grant recognises and rewards the hard work involved in setting up a small business.

Handyman Paul Brown received the grant for his painting and decorating company, PLWB Contracts. He said:

*"I would like to thank Test Valley Borough Council for the grant.*

*"The money has been used to pay some of the start-up costs of running a business which has helped me to get PLWB Contracts off the ground. I'm enjoying having a variety of work and I take pride in what I do.*

*"It's great to meet new customers and to see their jobs through from start to finish."*

The Council also offers £1,000 Independent Retailer Grants to businesses that move into ground floor town centre units which have been vacant for at least one month. The Council has awarded the grant to 20 retailers in Andover and Romsey since 2013. Recipients range from furniture and gift shop, Just a Little Bit Different, to Polish convenience store, Meta 24.

To find out more about the Council's Business Incentive Grant, Independent Retailer Grant and other forms of business support, visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk/business](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/business)



## Free Christmas

### Parking Voucher

One hour free when you purchase a minimum of one hour's parking.

Valid in Test Valley Borough Council car parks in Andover and Romsey

Valid only on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 30 November to 16 December.



Display this voucher on your dashboard alongside your pay and display ticket. Add one hour to the time on your ticket to calculate your return time. Also valid with a Ringo payment.

Test Valley Borough Council

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## More than **£200,000** invested in community facilities

Test Valley Borough Council has awarded more than £200,000 to community projects this year through its Community Asset Fund.

The fund supports projects such as village halls, shops and sports facilities that will provide or enhance community infrastructure. Since April 2015, beneficiaries have included the Longparish Village Hall committee, Chapel Arts Studio, Houghton Club and Harrow Way Community School.

Ampfield and Braishfield parishes received £25,000 each to extend and re-design their village halls.

Harrow Way Community School, Andover, has received funds to put towards a purpose-built performing arts space. The new facility will include a sprung floor and raised ceiling to enable a range of performing arts groups to benefit from modern and specialist facilities.

Organisations can apply to the Community Asset Fund for a grant of up to £25,000. Applicants can submit bids for up to 50 per cent of the cost of a project.

For more information, visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk/CAF](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/CAF)

## Restorative Justice

Hampshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Simon Hayes, is set to launch his Restorative Justice programme during International Restorative Justice Week from 15 to 22 November.

The programme will include a Restorative Justice Strategy which will outline how offenders and victims across Hampshire will be able to join together in rehabilitation sessions, either face to face or through a new, innovative online approach which is currently being developed.

The sessions will aim to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour by encouraging both the victim and offender to understand the implications on one another.

Test Valley Borough Council will be working with Hampshire Constabulary to develop the Restorative Justice programme. The project will enable officers to deliver immediate responses to low level crime and anti-social behaviour.

## Hampshire superfast broadband

More than 80 per cent of residential and business premises in Test Valley will have benefited from Hampshire County Council's superfast broadband by the end of the year. This figure is set to rise to just over 93 per cent by the end of 2018 as Hampshire County Council enters a second contract with BT to extend coverage.

For more details, visit: [www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com](http://www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com)

## The future is bright for **The Lights**

As **The Lights** enters its ninth year of trading, the theatre is excited to announce that it is embarking on a new business plan.

The plan seeks to build on the theatre's achievements to date and use them as a spring board towards delivering an exciting and dynamic future.

The plan sets the scene for the next four years and details the actions required to achieve the venue's ambitions and aspirations.



The full plan can be viewed at: [www.thelights.org.uk/aboutus/business-plan](http://www.thelights.org.uk/aboutus/business-plan)

## Have a **safe** journey!

Many people depend on taxis, minicabs and chauffeurs as reliable means of transport in and around the borough, but from time to time the Council is notified of unlicensed vehicles and drivers.

Unlicensed drivers and operators who pick up passengers are acting illegally and could face fines of up to £2,500. If you have any concerns about the legal and safe use of taxis and private hire vehicles, please contact the Licensing team at Test Valley Borough Council on **01264 368023**.

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INDEPENDENT SCHOOL INSPECTORATE  
REPORT, NOVEMBER 2014

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Hampshire SO51 6ZE

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Email [info@hampshirecs.org.uk](mailto:info@hampshirecs.org.uk)  
Web [www.hampshirecs.org.uk](http://www.hampshirecs.org.uk)

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Weyhill Road, Andover, Hampshire  
[www.rookwood.hants.sch.uk](http://www.rookwood.hants.sch.uk)

# Twice the sparkle for Artists Way

An Andover neighbourhood saw double in July as Test Valley Borough Council's Sparkle Day was twice its usual size in a pre-summer holiday tidy-up.

The Council's Environmental Services team carried out hedge maintenance and cleared more than three tonnes of waste from Artists Way on 30 and 31 July. One of Andover St Mary's ward members, Councillor John Cockaday, also helped to litter pick the area.

Sparkle Days have been part of the Council's ongoing Love Where You Live campaign since 2012 and they continue to be a great success. They provide the opportunity for the team to add an extra bit of sparkle to an area and to distribute information to residents about waste and recycling.



Environmental Portfolio Holder, Councillor Graham Stallard, said: *"It's amazing how much can be achieved in two days to make an area shine. The team worked really hard to clear a large amount of waste and they also took the opportunity to distribute bin stickers to remind homeowners about the types of waste that can be put in each bin. I'd like to thank Councillor Cockaday and the team for dedicating their time to the two-day clear up."*

For more information about Sparkle Days and the Love Where You Live campaign, visit: [www.testvalley.gov.uk/love](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/love)

# Recycling Star asks for unwanted clothes



Recycling Star would like to remind everyone that, as the seasons change, so do our outfits, and any unwanted clothes and textiles can be recycled at one of the borough's many clothing banks. To find your nearest clothes and textiles bank, visit [www.recyclenow.com/recycling-locator](http://www.recyclenow.com/recycling-locator)

It's been a busy summer for our Recycling Star as he attended Andover and Romsey carnivals, the 10th Woodley Sequoia Beaver Colony and the Shipton Bellinger fete. While at the events he handed out information to the public and spoke to lots of people about the benefits of recycling.

# Recycling Stars Supporters

Recycling Stars Supporters are those local organisations who support and promote our initiative.

We are now inviting local schools, businesses and other organisations to become official Recycling Stars Supporters by pledging to promote the benefits of recycling among their communities. If you'd like to join in, visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk/recyclingstars](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/recyclingstars) for more information.

# What's new?

Our waste collection teams use information tags to help householders recycle more of their waste.

These tags have recently been updated to include all the latest information. If you find a tag on your bin, you will also receive a postcard which will provide you with further details and advice about what you can and can't put in each of your bins. Please make sure you follow this advice carefully.

If you have any questions about your waste and recycling, simply contact the Recycling Stars team on **01264 368000**.

# Top tip

To keep your wheeled bins from straying too far, please write your property name or number on your bins. This will also help our waste collection teams to see which bin belongs to which property.

# Christmas and New Year bin collection dates



Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 21 December 2015	Saturday 19 December 2015
Tuesday 22 December 2015	Monday 21 December 2015
Wednesday 23 December 2015	Tuesday 22 December 2015
Thursday 24 December 2015	Wednesday 23 December 2015
Friday 25 December 2015	Thursday 24 December 2015

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 28 December 2015	Tuesday 29 December 2015
Tuesday 29 December 2015	Wednesday 30 December 2015
Wednesday 30 December 2015	Thursday 31 December 2015
Thursday 31 December 2015	Saturday 2 January 2016
Friday 1 January 2016	Monday 4 January 2016

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 4 January 2016	Tuesday 5 January 2016
Tuesday 5 January 2016	Wednesday 6 January 2016
Wednesday 6 January 2016	Thursday 7 January 2016
Thursday 7 January 2016	Friday 8 January 2016
Friday 8 January 2016	Saturday 9 January 2016

# Garden waste

Residents are reminded that they must not put garden waste into their black household waste bin. Garden waste should be disposed of either by composting it, joining the Garden Waste Collection Service or by taking it to a Household Waste Recycling Centre. If you have any questions about the correct way to dispose of any of your waste, please contact the Council's Customer Services team on **01264 368000** or **01794 527700**.



# Love Where You Live

There are more than 130 community litter pickers registered across Test Valley. If you would like to join in and keep your local patch clean and tidy, simply contact Environmental Services on **01264 368000**.

# Bin It Your Way!

The Council is pleased to be part of the Chewing Gum Action Group's Bin It Your Way campaign. Chaired by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the group aims to reduce the amount of littered chewing gum on our streets.

There are five different poster designs promoting the campaign, each one in a bold and vibrant colour with a Bin It Your Way theme. Will you slam dunk, swish or curve your gum into the bin? However you bin your gum, every time you do, you'll be stepping away from a fine of up to £80.

Environmental Portfolio Holder, Councillor Graham Stallard said: *"We are pleased to join forces with the Chewing Gum Action Group to promote its Bin It Your Way campaign. Chewing gum is a form of litter, and dropping litter is a crime. We urge the public to dispose of it correctly because it is unsightly to look at and it is expensive and time-consuming to remove."*



# What's on in Test Valley

Here's a summary of forthcoming events around Test Valley. More information about many of these events can be found in the Events section of the website, [www.testvalley.gov.uk/events](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/events)

## The Lights, Andover

Jack and the Beanstalk	28 October, 11am
Jeremy Hardy	28 October, 8pm
Macbeth, The Pantaloon	29 October, 7.30pm
Billy Joel Songbook performed by Elio Pace	30 October, 7.45pm
Pygmalion	3 November, 7.30pm
Andy Kirkpatrick, Cold Mountain	4 November, 7.45pm
One Night of Rock	6 November, 7.45pm
The FB Pocket Orchestra	7 November, 8pm
Shakespeare Schools Festival	17 and 18 November, 7pm
Derek Acorah, The Psychic Ether Tour	19 November, 7.30pm
Sheelanagig	20 November, 8pm
Wings over Abbey Road	21 November, 7.45pm
Emma	24 November, 7.30pm
Sinatra, Sequins & Swing	25 November, 7.45pm
Oas-is	28 November, 8pm
Just You, Just Me – Jaqui Dankworth & Charlie Wood	3 December, 7.45pm
Christmas Party Night Disco	4 December, 7.30pm
Snow Play	8-10 December, various
The Counterfeit Sixties	11 December, 7.45pm
The Snow Queen	12 December, 2pm and 7pm
Christmas Memories	17 December, 2pm
Waterloo	18 and 19 December, 7.45pm
Santa's Christmas Cracker	21 December, 10.30am and 1.30pm
Sing-a-long-a Frozen	22 December, 11am

## The Plaza, Romsey

Romsey Ghost Walk	4 November and 9 December, 7.30pm
Verdict	10 to 14 November, 7.30pm
Psychic night: Evening of mediumship	20 November, 7.30pm
Book of Genesis – tribute band	21 November, 7.30pm
Satin 'n' Steel	30 November to 5 December, 7.30pm
Michelmersh Silver Band Christmas concert	7 to 8 December, 7.30pm
Jack and the Beanstalk	Dates throughout January - see website for full details

## Weyhill Electronic Organ Society

Daniel Watt	19 November
Paul Carman	17 December

## Parks and Countryside

<b>Meadow Management</b>	
Tadburn Meadows Local Nature Reserve	8 November, 10am to 12 noon
<b>Scrub clearance</b>	
Swattons Field, Andover	14 November, 10am to 2pm
<b>Tree Thinning</b>	
Skyswood Balancing Pond, Valley Park Local Nature Reserve	22 November, 10am to 12 noon
<b>Hedge Laying</b>	
Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve	29 November, 10am to 2pm
<b>Ride Management</b>	
Zionshill West, Valley Park Local Nature Reserve	13 December, 10am to 12 noon

## Health Walks

From Romsey Sports Centre	Mondays at 11am
From The Lights theatre, Andover	Tuesdays at 11am
From Wellow Village Hall	Wednesdays at 1.30pm
From North Baddesley Village Hall	Thursdays at 10am
From Stockbridge Town Hall	Fridays at 10am
From Cleveland Bay Public House, Valley Park	Saturdays at 10.30am

## Events information

For events at The Lights book online at [www.thelights.org.uk](http://www.thelights.org.uk) or contact the box office on 01264 368368. For events at The Plaza, please call the booking office on 01794 512987. For countryside events please check [www.testvalley.gov.uk](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk) as these may be subject to change or for more information contact the Countryside Officers on 01264 368000. Weyhill Electronic Organ Society events are held at the Fairground Hall, Weyhill, unless otherwise stated. Tickets are £5 and available from Mimmo, Bridge Street, Andover or £6 on the door, subject to availability. For more information contact 01264 323213 or visit [www.weyhill-eos.co.uk](http://www.weyhill-eos.co.uk).

# Council meetings

## 28 October - 22 December 2015

Andover meetings are held in Conference Room One at the Council's Beech Hurst offices on Weyhill Road unless otherwise stated. Romsey meetings are held in Crosfield Hall.

### October 2015

28.10.15	General Purposes Committee	Andover	4pm
28.10.15	Cabinet	Andover	5.30pm
29.10.15	Northern Area Planning Committee	Andover	5.30pm

### November 2015

2.11.15	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Andover	5.30pm
3.11.15	Southern Area Planning Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
5.11.15	Licensing Committee	Andover	5.30pm
10.11.15	Planning Control Committee	Andover	5.30pm
11.11.15	Council	Andover Guildhall	4pm
19.11.15	Northern Area Planning Committee	Andover	5.30pm
24.11.15	Southern Area Planning Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
25.11.15	Cabinet	Romsey	5.30pm

### December 2015

1.12.15	Planning Control Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
2.12.15	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
3.12.15	Licensing Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
10.12.15	Northern Area Planning Committee	Andover Guildhall	5.30pm
15.12.15	Southern Area Planning Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
16.12.15	Cabinet	Romsey	5.30pm
21.12.15	Planning Control Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
22.12.15	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Romsey	5.30pm

## 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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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](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk) or call the Editor on 01264 368108.

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.

## Who to contact



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Head of IT Services	Tony Fawcett
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Acting Head of Revenues (Benefits and Customer Services)	Janice Broomfield
Head of Housing and Environmental Health Services	Brian Cowcher
Head of Community and Leisure Services	Dave Tasker
Head of Planning and Building Services	Paul Jackson
Head of Environmental Services	Paul Wykes
Head of Planning Policy and Transport Services	Steve Lees