



Test Valley News

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ANDOVER MASTERPLAN



New era for Andover as masterplan published

Plans to transform Andover have been given the green light, marking the start of an exciting new era for the town.

The ambitious plans, which include a complete transformation of the town centre with new routes and major improvements to the High Street, were approved at a full council meeting at the end of September following 12 months' work between Test Valley Borough Council, HemingwayDesign and NEW Masterplanning.

A better connected town centre, a riverside walk and new wellbeing

quarter and a new home for The Lights theatre are all part of the plans, which also include town centre living, with accommodation on upper floors creating ready-made footfall for shops and eateries. It will also bring life in the evenings and help to fund the wider redevelopment plans.

The new theatre will be part of a bustling square alongside restaurants in a new-look town centre that complements the work that has already begun in Town Mills to create the new riverside park.

The masterplan brings together thousands of responses from residents, community groups and stakeholder feedback.

[Read more on page 4](#)

ROMSEY MASTERPLAN

A masterplan showing what the area south of Romsey's town centre could look like in the future has been officially approved by councillors after a two-year process through the Romsey Future partnership.

A Fishlake Square, new retail and dining space and a new mobility hub are just some of the potential plans for the area around Crosfield Hall and the Broadwater Road car park over the next five to ten years.

Now the plans have been agreed following a full council meeting, as work begins with the Romsey Future partnership towards the next phase of the project, alongside the town's stakeholders.

Romsey Future included representatives from a range of organisations such as Romsey Town Council, Romsey Extra Parish Council, the Romsey and District Society as well as Test Valley Borough Council and other voluntary organisations.

This two-year period has seen multiple consultations with the general public, businesses and other community organisations. Last November, a Citizens' Assembly was held where around 50 people who matched the demographic of Romsey were randomly selected to listen to experts and evidence before giving their recommendations on what to do with the area.

Local plan workstream lead, councillor John Parker, said:

"This document shows how bright the future of our town could truly be, and how we can really make the most of our potential for this area."



[Read more on page 5](#)

COUNCIL GRANTED INJUNCTION TO TACKLE ILLEGAL ENCAMPMENTS

Test Valley Borough Council has been granted an injunction order by the High Court to prohibit the setup of unauthorised encampments.

After months of research and evidence gathering by the authority's legal service, the council was granted the order which should now make it easier to disperse and potentially prosecute encampments that set up on particular areas of land.

This work was undertaken following a spate of incidents last summer, which saw travellers target various sites across the borough, with Andover particularly hard hit.

The court also agreed to attach a power of arrest to the order, which means that those moving onto land or setting up camp in breach of the order, can be arrested and taken to court.

As well as prohibiting encampments, the injunction also covers any stationing caravans or mobile homes set up without the permission of the landowner, and those who deposit controlled waste in the defined areas.

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

"This is an absolutely fantastic outcome and follows months of hard work from council officers who have

committed a huge amount of time to gathering evidence to bolster our case.

"I have said before that we simply cannot endure another summer like 2019, with travellers breaking onto land, behaving anti-socially and leaving behind a trail of fly-tipped waste and rubbish. It has a massive impact on the local community and council resources, and it simply isn't acceptable that taxpayers are constantly having to foot the bill. The injunction will now strengthen our ability to evict unauthorised encampments quickly. We also understand from other local authorities that it seems to act as

a deterrent, so we hope that it will encourage people to think twice before they even consider targeting Test Valley in the first place.

"I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has been involved in piecing together this application to the High Court, including the police who have been hugely supportive in helping to provide the relevant evidence. They now have increased powers to help us in enforcing the injunction."

The injunction applies to named individuals who have targeted parts of the borough previously as well as those who are new to the area.

COUNCIL TEAMS UP TO LAUNCH FASTER NEW BOOKING SYSTEM



Test Valley Borough Council has teamed up with Pitchbooking to launch a new, automated booking system for the council's sports pitches.

Previously, residents and sports clubs across the borough who wanted to use the pitches, would have to ring through and manually book. Now, the system, which launched in September, will allow users to book using an online service which will run 24 hours a day.

Those hiring the pitches can select the location, and pay. They also have the option to make it a recurring booking. The new system is also easy to use on mobiles and tablets, as well as PCs.

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

"Following the end of our previous agreement, we really wanted to see what options were available to make booking our pitches as easy and accessible as possible for everybody.

"We have some fantastic locations that are well used by our communities, so I'm very pleased that we now have a round-the-clock service available online that can be used on multiple devices. My thanks to everyone involved and Pitchbooking themselves for getting this exciting new service up and running."

YOUTH PARLIAMENT BENEFITS FROM GRANT SCHEME

The Hampshire Youth Parliament has benefitted from hundreds of pounds after receiving a grant from Test Valley Borough Council.

Across the country, the UK Youth Parliament represents around 130,000 young people. In 2000, the Hampshire Youth Parliament was set up to run alongside the national body.

In August, the council awarded £500 to Member of Youth Parliament for North West Hampshire, Dmitrijs Meiksans, in Andover, to enable the Hampshire Youth Parliament to continue to represent thousands of young people across the county during the coronavirus pandemic.

Test Valley Borough Council leader Phil North presented the funds through the Councillor Community Grants scheme.

Test Valley Borough Council's Councillor Community Grant scheme helps to fund up to two-thirds of the overall cost of community-led initiatives. Local councillors allocate up to £1,000 to projects that they identify as meeting a need in the community based on feedback and ideas from residents.



Councillor North, said:

"Throughout the UK, the work that the Youth Parliament does in representing young people really is vital. They can often be those who aren't heard enough when key decisions are being made, but it is their future. In Test Valley, we are keen to make sure we engage with people of all ages in our communities.

"It's fantastic that we can help the Hampshire branch in continuing the work that they, and Dmitrijs do in ensuring our younger population have a voice that is heard."

Dmitrijs Meiksans MYP said:

"We are pleased to have received this generous support and grant from the borough as part of the Councillor Community Grant scheme, enabling me and my colleagues to make the most of our terms and make room for young people to be involved in conversations that revolve around them."



COUNCIL TOP DOG FOR SEVEN YEARS RUNNING

The RSPCA has awarded the council its highest award for its continued dedication to animal welfare.

For the seventh year running, Test Valley has scooped a Gold PawPrints award, which celebrates the authority's work in ensuring the highest quality of animal welfare around the borough.

This includes the authority's work with kennels, licensing and breeders in Test Valley. The awards are now in their twelfth year, and this is the seventh consecutive year that TVBC has received the award.

Last year, the council was also given a special Platinum Stray Dogs Footprint. The council was among other local authorities and organisation who won the prize.

Animal welfare officer at Test Valley Borough Council, Rod Mason, said: *"This has been a very difficult year, but work to ensure the animals in Test Valley have the highest quality care and welfare has not stopped. We all have a duty to ensure we give our animals the best quality of life and I'm very pleased that the RSPCA has again recognised our efforts."*

"New challenges have presented themselves during the pandemic as many people look for a new companion. We'll continue to work hard in managing this and would of course encourage people to do their research and contact us if they're in any doubt!"

Housing and environmental health portfolio holder, councillor Phil Bundy, said: *"It's really important for us to keep up our efforts in ensuring quality welfare for the animals of Test Valley. It's wonderful to know that the RSPCA has taken note of how much work goes into looking after the welfare of our animals and I know that Rod is doing a fantastic job."*

"I'm sure next year, we'll be doing all we can to make sure we're celebrating another year."

GREEN SPACE GIVEN OFFICIAL OPENING IN SHERFIELD ENGLISH



A new green space purchased by the council has been officially opened for residents to enjoy.

Councillors Nick Adams-King and Gordon Bailey marked the opening at the site on Mill Lane alongside parish council chair, Graham Leigh.

The site provides a huge open space for walking and recreation, with two main fields with grassland and wetland habitats which are bordered by veteran oak trees.

The area is fully enclosed with fencing, allowing visitors to walk their dogs with

peace of mind in a safe environment. After purchasing the land, the council built a car park and installed dual-use bins for litter and dog waste, which are located at intervals alongside the informal grass paths around the site.

The authority will also be managing this area for its ecological value and although in the early stages of management, it is planned to increase the area for wildlife conservation. Works to extend the walk around the site will be carried out over the next few months to enhance the area.

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NEW ERA FOR ANDOVER AS MASTERPLAN GIVEN THE GO-AHEAD



A new-look town could see a total transformation of the theatre, the Chantry Centre and the River Anton over the next ten years.

Residents can now take a glimpse into Andover's future as a masterplan for the town has been agreed by Test Valley Borough Council.

The long-awaited town centre masterplan now marks the start of an exciting new era for the town having been approved at a full council meeting on September 28.

New routes and improvements to the lanes will mean the High Street will be much better connected to the surrounding area and more welcoming for independent retailers.

Town centre living will also play a key role, with new accommodation at upper floors creating ready-made footfall for shops and eateries, bringing life in the evenings and helping to fund the wider redevelopment plans.

One of the most radical changes would see the existing Chantry Centre site replaced with mixed use development, delivering space for more independent retailers, health, community and leisure uses, pop-up retailers, as well as new offices and apartments at upper levels. A new The Lights theatre would be the star attraction overlooking a bustling new

square where people could relax and dine, bringing a more social feel to the picturesque Georgian market town.

A stunning riverside walk will showcase Andover's largely hidden watercourse, the River Anton, offering the perfect setting for families and friends to picnic and wander along the water's edge.

The plans also recommend the development of a spectacular Wellbeing Quarter, which will encompass the area around Andover Leisure Centre and include a new college campus, creating a modern space for people to exercise, relax and enjoy. This would also help to create a green corridor linking the River Anton to Vigo Park and open up views to St Mary's Church at the heart of it.

The proposals, which have been 12 months in the making, are the work of nationally renowned designers, HemingwayDesign and NEW masterplanning. They have consulted with more than 4,000 residents, businesses and other stakeholders to form an innovative new vision for the town.

The masterplan and flythroughs, which enable viewers to step into the future and take a look around the new town centre, are available at:

www.thinkandovertowncentre.co.uk

Leader of Test Valley Borough Council, councillor Phil North, said: *"This truly is incredible for the town and I am so excited to finally be able to share our plans for the future of Andover."*

"This is the culmination of a huge amount of hard work and I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has been involved with this project, including all those who took the time to respond to the surveys and in particular the amazing teams at HemingwayDesign and NEW masterplanning for sharing my passion and vision for the town and believing in its potential."

"Town centres are changing. They are becoming more of a place for leisure and living as well as retail – and everyone's efforts have helped create a plan to ensure Andover town centre is fit for the future."

"Of course, the hard work doesn't end here, rather this marks the beginning of a huge project to create a new era for Andover - and our next step will be to identify a developer partner, or an alternative delivery mechanism, to bring these plans to life."

Lora White from NEW masterplanning, added: *"Andover has so much promise and we really wanted to do the town and its residents justice. It has all of the key elements: a fascinating history and striking Georgian architecture; a growing independent business community and a beautiful river, which helps to set it apart from many other town centres. We have sought to really amplify those elements and open up the High Street to make it feel more connected to the wider town centre."*

Wayne Hemingway, HemingwayDesign, said: *"We knew from the very beginning that we wanted to be a part of the project for one reason in particular: potential. Andover is lucky enough to have it in spades. And thanks to that invaluable asset, and a local community that has said throughout the process that it is really up for change, we have been able to create exciting, future-facing, deliverable ideas."*

With the scale of the redevelopment, the council expects the work to be carried out in phases and will help to relocate any businesses displaced during the work to alternative town centre premises.



"This marks the beginning of a huge project to create a new era for Andover" - Councillor Phil North



FUTURE OF ROMSEY UNVEILED IN FINAL MASTERPLAN



“The plans are considerate, green and really take into account the character of Romsey” - Councillor John Parker

The masterplan that shows what the area south of Romsey’s town centre could look like in the next few years has been revealed following a two-year process.

A Fishlake Square, new retail and dining space and a new mobility hub are just some of the potential plans for the area around Crosfield Hall and the Broadwater Road car park over the next five to ten years.

The masterplanning process began through the Romsey Future partnership in 2018 after consultants Nexus and Perkins & Will Architects were appointed. Romsey Future includes representatives from a range of organisations such as Romsey Town Council, Romsey Extra Parish Council, the Romsey and District Society as well as Test Valley Borough Council and other voluntary organisations.

This two-year period has seen multiple consultations with the general public, businesses and other community organisations. A Citizens’ Assembly has also been held, where around 50 people who matched the demographic of Romsey were randomly selected to listen to experts and evidence before giving their recommendations on what to do with the area last November.

Following their input, and a further round of public consultation earlier this year, the masterplan has been finalised and was adopted by council members in early September.

The masterplan covers short, medium and long-term scenarios for the area, meaning the flexibility of the plans can be tailored to markets and any developer partners.

The short-term plans include terraced seating and improving the views to the Fishlake Stream as it runs along the current bus station and down towards

Dukes Mill, as well as transforming Broadwater Road with new pedestrian surfaces and access points. Other proposals for this stage include the improvement of pedestrian and cycle routes along the bypass and creating better access into the area over Tadburn Lake.

For the medium-term, a new mobility hub would be created within a new relocated bus station. The mobility hub would include bicycle storage and ‘Amazon-style’ collection and storage lockers. It would also maintain the same number of bus stops in a more efficient use of space for both cyclists and pedestrians.

A new mixed-use development would then be put in place on the existing bus station site, and this would include commercial space on the ground level, which could incorporate restaurants and dining outlets. It would also house residential properties on the upper levels, while new community space would also be created on the ground levels of the buildings. The current Crosfield Hall site would instead be utilised for parking, while maintaining easy access for pedestrians to the mobility hub and beyond.

Before the current Crosfield Hall site is transformed, alternative community space would be provided elsewhere in the town. The council is working on a study to identify what type of facility is needed in the future. This will help guide where it will be located and will form part of the next Local Plan. Public toilets and other facilities would also be built into the area and the creation of a new public plaza called Fishlake Square would take full advantage of the newly-opened Fishlake Stream.

The longer-term proposals cover the next five to ten years and include the relocation of the Aldi store to the current Crosfield Hall site. Parking would also be put in place for the store’s new location, while the current Aldi site could be considered for a number of different uses. These include community space,



offices, a gym, restaurants and dining space. Retail outlets created facing The Hundred could then also be used for smaller independent businesses. The current Aldi car park would be redesigned to accommodate almost 200 spaces.

The Fishlake Square and mobility hub suggested in the medium-term proposals would also coexist with the new Aldi relocation plans in this scenario.

Local plan workstream lead, councillor John Parker, said: *“This document shows how bright the future of our town could truly be, and how we can really make the most of our potential for this area. The plans are considerate, green and really take into account the character of Romsey, which is something we all want to ensure is maintained in any new plans. My thanks to everyone who took time to find out about this project and who contributed to it over the past two years. We are on the path to something potentially very special for our town.”*

Chair of Romsey Future, councillor Nick Adams-King, said: *“This process has been incredibly rewarding and I’m extremely grateful to the residents of Romsey, our community groups and businesses who have played a part in contributing to shaping this final document. Romsey Future is a cross-political amalgamation of our town, and I’m thrilled that, through our hard work and the efforts of our consultants, we have been able to achieve this end product. Our work to implement these plans starts now.”*

Town centre workstream lead, Mark Edgerley, said: *“Having plans that are flexible to the future of our town is absolutely vital, and I’m pleased to see that this is reflected in the final masterplan.*

“Access will be improved and there is more of an impetus on cycling and walking with a new mobility hub, which benefits our environment, our residents, and our community. This is the future of Romsey.”



COMING TOGETHER THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Community groups and voluntary organisations have been at the heart of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, whether delivering food parcels to the vulnerable, helping those isolating to get vital medicine, or holding remote quiz nights to keep spirits high.

Since March, parish councils, community groups and Test Valley Borough Council's community partner, Unity, have been helping those most in need.

The council has been supporting these groups with financial aid and staff resources to ensure this help can reach all corners of their communities.

Community comes together

Throughout Test Valley, community support groups came together in villages, parishes and towns to help the borough in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Andover Self Isolation Help group worked closely with community charity Unity to ensure medicines and food reached those who needed it. In Houghton and Bossington, a support group also managed to raise £1,250 for the NHS alongside deliveries to its community and holding virtual pub quizzes.

Council officers from different services

have been aiding groups to reach as many people as possible. Some of that aid came through using the council's resources to organise ways to get medicine and prescriptions to those who were self-isolating. A scheme was set up with West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group to enable medicines to be delivered via the groups, including the Andover Self Isolation Help group.

Community engagement officers were also in regular contact with their respective communities, to ensure the latest information was passed to the authority, so that help could be provided if needed.

Lending a hand

On top of their usual roles and extra responsibilities during the pandemic, a number of council officers were also lending a hand in different ways in supporting communities. Throughout lockdown, parking was free for Test Valley Borough Council car parks, meaning officers who would usually be spending their time monitoring parking were instead hand delivering food parcels to the vulnerable.

Other staff were putting the packages together, which included a number of essentials such as milk, bread and other foods, which were purchased by other council officers.

The charity, Unity, also launched the Test Valley Community Helpline, ensuring those in the borough who needed any assistance, could receive it. This help came in the form of medicine, prescriptions and any other errands. For weeks, a number of council officers were helping to answer the phones.

For the environmental service, the pandemic saw waste collection officers collect more than 500 extra tonnes of glass between March and April compared to the same period in 2019. Almost 400 tonnes was collected in June alone. Collection officers were extremely grateful to receive so many notes of thanks for their

hard work and continued efforts during the coronavirus pandemic, while they managed to maintain collections and an increase in garden waste.

Boosting businesses

Throughout lockdown, council officers have been working tirelessly to ensure millions of pounds of vital funding was passed on to businesses as quickly as possible.

After the government announced a number of packages to help businesses through the pandemic, the council's revenues and welfare team were hard at work going through the national guidance that had been received, processing applications for those who needed it across Test Valley.

Having been given £27 million from central government, the council wrote to all businesses the authority believed may have been eligible for funding and tried to reach as many organisations as possible.

Small and rural businesses received £16.43m, while members of the retail, hospitality and leisure industry were granted £10.705m throughout the pandemic.

Other schemes were set up by the council, such as rounds of £500 payments that any individual or organisation could apply for if they were helping the community respond to the pandemic. Discretionary grants were also organised, paying out around £1.4m.



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Kay Jerrams, Home Manager

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Test Valley Borough Council

Supporting our communities through Coronavirus

£380k



Provided **£380,000** of council tax support to more than **2,000** households

1.533m



Collected **55,847** bins per week - that's **1,533,716** bins since lockdown began in March

£44m



Paid out **£44m** of grants and rate relief to support around **3,000** local businesses

89



We suspended parking charges for **89** days to support people picking up supplies

£22k



Provided **£22,045** to **50** community groups to help them deliver food supplies and prescriptions to residents

1,966



Worked with **1,966** volunteers providing vital support to their local communities

52,000



We responded to more than **52,000** customer enquiries

1,903



Answered **1,903** calls to the Test Valley Community Helpline

256



256 households helped into housing

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COUNCIL CRACKS ON WITH CLIMATE PLAN

Test Valley Borough Council has slashed its paper consumption, is driving down its energy use and is continuing to increase its fleet of electric vehicles in a bid to become carbon-neutral.

The authority declared a climate emergency in September 2019 and since then it has been pushing forward plans to dramatically cut its carbon emissions.

Members of various political parties came together to help produce a Climate Emergency Action Plan, which was approved by the council in June 2020. The authority's overview and scrutiny committee (OSCOM) will receive an update on progress every six months.

Figures included in an OSCOM update in September 2020 showed that between October 2019 and July 2020 the council hacked the number of pages printed by around 100,000, halving the number of trees consumed and hammering down costs by more than half a million pounds.

The authority has also ordered three refuse collection vehicles with

electrically operated bin lifts, which are each expected to save around 2,000kg of carbon dioxide per year.

In addition, it is reviewing the potential for renewable and low carbon energy sources in the borough to help inform future planning policies. And the council has also now switched to an electricity tariff that uses renewable energy, meaning that it will use electricity generated from non-fossil fuel sources.

The update also considered the impact of Covid restrictions on the council's progress against the action plan, observing that the pandemic has meant that quicker progress has been made on certain aspects, including the use of video conferencing and live streaming council meetings to the public.

The lockdown also highlighted the importance of providing good quality open spaces to support people's physical and mental wellbeing.

Residents and businesses continue to play their part, with 17 per cent of council tax bills and 32 per cent of business rates bills now issued electronically.

Environmental Portfolio Holder, councillor Alison Johnston, said:

"We were already driving forward our climate emergency plans when coronavirus hit. Covid-19 has, understandably, taken the lion's share of the news coverage over the past few months. But the climate emergency is still very much at the forefront of our minds and green recovery will continue to be at the core of our response to the pandemic. Indeed, the impact of lockdown has

accelerated a move towards more energy efficient ways of working.

"We remain keen to explore all options to help reduce our carbon footprint, with a view to achieving carbon neutrality as quickly as possible and certainly before the government target of 2050.

"Some of the changes we implement will have a relatively small impact but this is about seeking to reduce our CO2 emissions wherever we are able to do so."

BE SEEN, BE CENTRAL AND BOOST BUSINESS

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) has joined forces with The Lifestyle Card and Andover Business Improvement District (BID) to launch the new Be Seen, Be Central campaign aimed at encouraging local retailers to take up vacant units in the Chantry Centre.

Andover has hundreds of successful businesses, with many of them operating out of the nearby business parks or from their homes and out-of-town offices. But with a number of empty units in the town centre, the council is encouraging business to consider the benefits of also showcasing their products and services in a central location.



And thanks to TVBC's easy in, easy out occupancy agreements, businesses have the chance to try out a pop-up shop to enable them to test the water.

As well as filling vacant units while plans for the major redevelopment of the town centre continue to progress, the council hopes that this will give a platform for businesses and even those running local interest groups and services, to raise their profiles.

Anyone interested in renting a unit in the Chantry Centre can contact Colin Hares at Test Valley Borough Council, on 01264 368000 or email chares@testvalley.gov.uk

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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.

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HARD AT WORK TO KEEP TEST VALLEY GREEN

Fly-tip focus

Throughout lockdown, the council's environmental service kept working, collecting tens of thousands of bins every week. But, on top of maintaining their usual duties during a difficult period during the pandemic, fly-tipping did not stop, and neither did their work to catch those responsible.

Fly-tipping is the term used when waste is illegally deposited onto land and is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. We investigate every single report of fly-tipping, and if we find sufficient evidence, we will seek to take those responsible to court. Those found guilty could be hit with a fine of up to £50,000, or given up to five years in prison. The council has covert cameras placed across Test Valley to try to catch those in action. If you come across a suspected fly-tip, please don't touch it, but contact the council's team on **01264 368000** or **01794 527700**.

And remember, if you're using a waste carrier, make sure they are licensed, as your rubbish is still your responsibility. Since 2005, householders have been required by law to check that anyone

removing waste from their property is authorised to do so, so don't get caught out; it's your duty of care!

Recycling in Test Valley

This year, as many of us have spent more time at home than we usually would, the levels of recycling have increased! Between March and August, we collected more than 500 tonnes of glass compared to the same period in 2019 from our local recycling centres (LRC).

The LRCs enable you to recycle many different materials, from aluminium foil, to glass, to textiles, to cartons! With more than 100 across the borough, you can recycle many forms of everyday waste. In your brown bin, remember to only include paper, cardboard, tins and cans, and aerosols and plastic bottles. Pop them in clean, dry and loose. Follow these rules rather than what you see on your packaging, as every area is different! And don't forget – face masks and tissues are not recyclable.

Going green

The council's grounds maintenance team is going green! Having spent time trialling different types of equipment, the team will be switching to greener, battery-operated tools as part of their daily work, replacing all petrol-powered equipment over the next few years.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS IN ANDOVER TO LOOK A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT THIS YEAR

Celebrations this winter may look a little different to previous years, but will still have the same festive feel as we welcome Christmas 2020.

The activities and events will begin at the end of November, as the Andover Christmas Tree Festival gets under way. Schools, businesses and community groups will be invited to design and decorate one of 100 Christmas tree panels, which will then be brought together in an outdoor exhibition on the green between The Lights theatre and Andover Leisure Centre.

The trees will light up at night and the experience will be enhanced with a soundscape of songs and poems from local choirs and school children, and the public will be encouraged to wander amongst the trees and soak up the festive atmosphere.

To complement the Christmas Tree Festival, and to coincide with Andover Town Council's plan to switch on the Christmas lights, there will be a Christmas Market held on 29 November

in the town centre. The market will feature a wide range of stall holders, live music, hot food and pre-bookable children's festive craft activities and of course, Santa's Grotto in the Chantry Centre. Three very good reasons to pop into town and enjoy all that the High Street has to offer on 29 November!

Spreading the Christmas spirit throughout the town and further afield will be the Andover Window Wonderland walking art trail to light up the winter streets. The project invites residents, schools, shops and businesses to decorate their windows in the form of a light box. During a set time each evening, the windows are switched on to create a nightly trail of unique and shining artworks. Businesses, shops and schools will be encouraged to participate, but the main focus will be on residents taking part and creating trails in local community areas.

A number of additional markets will take place throughout December, alongside family treasure hunts and trails, encouraging everyone to enjoy the town centre throughout the festive period.



YOUR UNIQUE JOURNEY

Andover College offers the widest choice of courses in the region, with A Level or A Level equivalent courses, vocational courses and apprenticeships standards available at different levels.

Our commitment to our students runs through everything we do, supporting every part of our college community.



EXPERIENCE ANDOVER ONLINE ANDOVER.AC.UK

Coming soon

FATHER CHRISTMAS

at the Chantry Centre

Grotto opening Saturday 28 November

Pre-booking will be essential

Full details will be announced soon. Visit www.thechantrycentre.com to find out more

YOUR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR BIN COLLECTION DATES

Normal collection day - Brown bin Revised collection day - Brown bin

Monday 21 December 2020	Saturday 19 December 2020
Tuesday 22 December 2020	Monday 21 December 2020
Wednesday 23 December 2020	Tuesday 22 December 2020
Thursday 24 December 2020	Wednesday 23 December 2020
Friday 25 December 2020	Thursday 24 December 2020

Normal collection day - Black bin Revised collection day - Black bin

Monday 28 December 2020 (Bank Hol)	Monday 28 December 2020
Tuesday 29 December 2020	Tuesday 29 December 2020
Wednesday 30 December 2020	Wednesday 30 January 2021
Thursday 31 December 2020	Thursday 31 December 2020
Friday 1 January 2021	Saturday 2 January 2021

GARDEN WASTE

Garden waste collections will not take place between **Monday 21 December 2020 and Friday 1 January 2021.**

PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT THIS WINTER

The council is continuing to work hard to ensure any resident who is seeking shelter is given a place to stay.

During the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, housing officers worked tirelessly to provide emergency accommodation for anyone experiencing homelessness. The authority's position remains that residents who present themselves as homeless to the council and would otherwise be sleeping rough, will always be offered emergency accommodation before leaving the offices, to prevent them having to sleep on the streets.

Over the winter months, the council will also continue to provide its severe weather emergency protocol (SWEP) with special arrangements in place when

temperatures are set to fall below zero for those who are without shelter. Should this happen for a minimum of three consecutive nights, these arrangements are put in place to help those living on the street.

Subject to availability, anyone can access Two Saint's Direct Access Hostel in Andover, who will provide emergency bed and food provision wherever possible. Anyone concerned about somebody who may be sleeping rough is encouraged to contact the council's housing team or Two Saints, and report it through Streetlink.

The council's housing team can be contacted on **01264 368000**, and operate as another available service to support people who may otherwise sleep rough to come inside from the cold.

HAVE YOUR SAY TO HELP PROTECT ROMSEY'S HISTORY

Test Valley Borough Council is calling on Romsey residents to have their say on the town's heritage as it updates its conservation area.

Romsey's conservation area was first designated in 1970, and defines an area of special architectural or historic interest. The area currently includes the majority of the town centre, including Market Place, The Hundred and The Causeway, which helps to preserve and enhance those areas in the future.

Now, a consultation has been launched as the authority looks at ways to update its guidance for the conservation area.

At the end of the process, a Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP) will be put together, which will describe the importance of some of Romsey's historic locations, and offer further guidance on how to protect them.

The consultation, which will run until November 6, is seeking views on proposed boundary changes to the conservation area and any other points on the town's history and heritage.

The full draft of the new CAAMP and consultation questionnaire can be found on the council's website via this link www.testvalley.gov.uk/RCAConsultation.

Residents can also send comments directly to the council via planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk

The septic tanks, sewage treatment plants & soakaway experts

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Who to contact



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Head of Revenues and Welfare	Carl Whatley
Head of IT	Jussi Vuorela
Head of Housing and Environmental Health	Phil Turner
Head of Planning Policy and Economic Development	Graham Smith
Head of Planning and Building	Paul Jackson
Head of Environmental Services	Paul Wykes
Head of Community and Leisure	Dave Tasker

THANK YOU KEY WORKERS

Thank you for all your efforts, both during the lockdown and continuously, in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic.



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

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Please call the Chief Executive's office on **01264 368108**.