



Test Valley News

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Revamp for leisure facilities

Test Valley Borough Council has announced that Places for People Leisure Management Ltd will manage its leisure facilities from 1 April 2017.

Significant investment is planned to improve the borough's leisure facilities, which will help to provide a brand new Andover Leisure Centre, on the current site, and a number of improvements to the other leisure centres including the Romsey Rapids, Romsey Sports Centre, Knightwood Leisure Centre and Charlton Lakeside Pavilion.

The new Andover Leisure Centre will feature a 165-station fitness suite including a virtual cycling studio, 25m six-lane pool with 15m learner pool, dance studios, an eight-court sports hall, squash

courts, adventure play, and café. The impressive new centre will also offer a splash area for children and a climbing wall to encourage more young people to adopt healthy habits for life.

Places for People Leisure currently partners 35 local authorities, managing 112 leisure centres across England. Its sites attract over 30 million visits every year and in the past ten years the award-winning organisation has built 14 new leisure facilities.

Enhancements to the existing leisure centres will soon be underway with extensive refurbishment work planned, including a new state-of-the-art fitness suite at Romsey Rapids and Knightwood Leisure Centre. The new fitness suites will include the latest equipment and fitness trainers.

Sandra Dodd, Chief Executive at Places for People Leisure said: *"We are extremely pleased to have been awarded the contract and are looking forward to working closely with Test Valley Borough Council to ensure we offer a leisure service that meets and exceeds community needs and aspirations. Our mission at Places for People Leisure is to 'create active places and healthy people' and we are excited to be able to offer a range of leisure activities and opportunities for all members of the local community to adopt more active lifestyles."*

Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder, Councillor Tony Ward, added: *"I am absolutely delighted that Places for People has been awarded the new contract to continue to deliver top class leisure facilities in the borough. The process to award the contract has taken the best part of 18 months and has involved a huge amount of work to get the best possible outcome for our residents. I am looking forward to working with the Places for People team over the coming years and ensuring that we carry on delivering the high quality leisure facilities that our residents deserve and expect."*

We'll collect your garden waste

Spring is just around the corner and we'll soon be back in our gardens enjoying the outdoors.

When you've cut back your overgrown trees and mowed the lawn again, don't forget that Test Valley Borough Council's Environmental Services team is here to help you with your unwanted garden waste.

We offer a fortnightly garden waste collection service for just **£31** for the whole year, and it's easy to sign up. Just visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/mytestvalley or phone our customer services team on **01264 368000** or

01794 527700. If you'd like more than one subscription, it's just **£17.50** for each additional subscription.

If you're already a garden waste subscriber, we will contact you shortly before your subscription is due for renewal - so you won't need to do a thing.

All the garden waste we collect is composted to produce Pro-Grow, a high-quality, organic soil conditioner produced locally in Hampshire by Project Integra. Pro-Grow can be purchased at any Household Waste Recycling Centre, or bought online.



You can buy a 240-litre green bin for **£25**, or a reusable green sack for just **£1.75**. Visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/orderabin for more details.



Sparkle Days

The Council's Environmental Services team continues to clean and tidy different parts of the borough throughout the year to keep it looking fresh.

A typical Sparkle Day involves sweeping roads and paths, cutting back shrubs, clearing litter and cleaning signs. The team is also on hand to help residents with any questions they may have about managing their waste and recycling.

If you would like to request a Sparkle Day in your area, visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/love.

Be wise about your waste

Householders are required by law to check that anyone removing waste from their property is authorised to do so.

Social media is a popular way to advertise waste removal services, so if you choose a private contractor you've seen online, we recommend that you:

- check that they are a registered waste carrier. If in doubt, you can check with the Environment Agency by phoning

03708 506506 or visiting www.gov.uk

- check where your contractor is proposing to take your waste.
- make a note of the registration number of any vehicle removing waste from your home.
- pay by cheque, if you can, and request a receipt for the work carried out.

Keeping waste and recycling simple

In Test Valley, we like to keep things simple when it comes to what can and cannot be recycled. Please only put the following items in your brown bin:



Items must be placed loose in your bin and not in plastic bags. Plastic bags and their contents cannot be recycled.

A guide to recycling and waste collections in Test Valley can be downloaded from the Council's website at www.testvalley.gov.uk/recyclingguide.

Meet our latest Recycling Stars!



Olivia Sacree and Amy Ellis are two new Recycling Stars who have won a competition to design a banner for the Council's waste collection vehicles.

The Council received almost 350 entries to its drawing competition, which asked children to come up with a design to help encourage more people to recycle their glass bottles and jars.

Olivia, who goes to Portway Infant School, submitted the winning design for the north of the borough, while

Amy Ellis, from St Francis CE Primary School, won first place in the south. Olivia and Amy received a surprise visit from the Recycling Star, who unveiled their colourful designs on the side of the waste collection vehicles which service the areas around the schools.

The winning designs were also printed on the bin collection calendars which were sent to all residents in the borough. Olivia and Amy received a framed copy of their artwork, a Recycling Stars goodie bag and tickets to watch a show at The Lights theatre.

The two winning designs, as well as nine highly commended entries, can be viewed on the Council's online gallery at www.testvalley.gov.uk/recyclingstars.

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Have your say on new council ward boundaries for Test Valley



The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking local people for their help to draw up a new pattern of council wards for Test Valley Borough Council.

'Ward' is the term used to describe a geographical area whose residents are represented by one or more elected borough councillors.

The consultation is the first part of an electoral review which will re-draw ward boundaries across Test Valley.

The Commission has also announced that it is minded to recommend that the Council should have 43 councillors in the future - five fewer than the current arrangements. This follows a proposal from Test Valley Borough Council which was based on extensive review.

The Commission now wants information from people and groups across Test Valley to help it to produce a new pattern of wards to accommodate 43 councillors.

In drawing up new boundaries, the Commission aims to deliver electoral equality for voters in council elections so that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters.

The review also aims to ensure that the new council wards reflect, as far as possible, the interests and identities of communities across Test Valley.

Professor Colin Mellors, Chair of the Commission, said: "We are asking local people and organisations to help us draw up new wards for Test Valley. As we develop the recommendations, we will take into account local community identities as well as ensuring electoral equality for voters.

If you have a view about which communities or neighbourhoods should be part of the same council ward, then we want to hear from you. And if you think a road, river or railway makes for a strong boundary

between communities in your part of Test Valley, then this consultation is for you.

Your views will make a difference.

We will carefully consider all evidence that is provided during this phase of the review - whoever it is from - and whether it applies to the whole of Test Valley or just a small part of the borough.

Residents will then have a further chance to have their say after we publish our draft recommendations in June."

Local people have until 3 April 2017 to submit their views. Further information on the review and interactive maps, where you can draw your suggested boundaries, can be found at consultation.lgbce.org.uk and www.lgbce.org.uk.

Community project is an award winner



Test Valley Partnership's Information, Communication, Education (ICE) project was awarded runner up in the Resolve National ASB awards in the 'Best Project Award 2016' category. These awards profile the excellent work of organisations, residents and community partnerships in tackling antisocial behaviour effectively. They are the most prestigious of their type.

ICE is an early-intervention partnership project for young people in a difficult

period of their life and who are at risk of making bad choices. The project offers workshops that discuss actions and consequences relating to topics such as fire safety, cyber bullying, hate crime and criminal damage. ICE also provides one-to-one sessions that promote good citizenship, safer communities and increased school attendance.

The project was highly commended by the judges for its innovation, sustained impact and community engagement processes.

Test Valley Borough Council's Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder, Councillor Tony Ward, said: "ICE is a fantastic project that has benefited a large number of young people in the borough. I'm really pleased that the project has been recognised for its success at a national level."

Hampshire Constabulary Chief Inspector, Kory Thorne, said: "The project is an excellent example of how the partnership has worked together to provide a diverse range of training to vulnerable people. The young people that we have worked with have shown excellent enthusiasm and commitment to the project, and I am very proud of all of them."

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Group Commander, Sandy Thomson, added: "To receive such a prestigious award is a compliment to all the hard work that has gone into the project. I am already looking forward to continuing to work with the partnership and delivering future successful schemes."

Communities can plan their future

A Community Planning Toolkit is available to help local communities plan for their future. The toolkit was developed by Test Valley Borough Council and the Test Valley Association of Town and Parish Councils.

Residents, parish councils and community groups are at the heart of towns and villages across Test Valley and are in the ideal position to

identify what their community needs. Whether that's a need for more housing, preserving the character of their community, or looking to secure investment into facilities, the Community Planning Toolkit signposts local people to the options that are available to them and provides the resources they may need to help move projects forward.



If you would like more information about how you can help to plan for your local area's future, visit the Community and Leisure pages at www.testvalley.gov.uk.

BETTERIDGE'S BREWERY

Betteridge's Brewery is an award winning microbrewery that produces craft ale in Hurstbourne Tarrant. Four different ales are produced and sold in bottle and in cask, mainly in northern Test Valley. Betteridge's Brewery sells to pubs and shops and also specialises in parties, events and weddings. We aim to provide an excellent personal service to customers.

www.betteridgesbrewery.co.uk



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info@betteridgesbrewery.co.uk

Funding in the community

In the past year, Test Valley Borough Council has awarded funding to 15 organisations through its Community Asset Fund. More than £240,000 has been awarded to a range of organisations across the borough, including:

- **Andover Radio:** £24,779.53 towards purchasing broadcast and studio equipment
- **Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council:** £10,000 towards refurbishment and extension of a local playground
- **Wellow Parish Council:** £23,443.80 towards building a brand new purpose-built cricket pavilion
- **Vernham Dean Millennium Hall:** £2,000 towards the replacement of a boiler
- **Romsey Riverwalk Restoration:** £15,000 towards enhancing the riverbank to maintain the environment and protect wildlife
- **Longparish Village Hall:** £25,000 towards extending storage space and resurfacing the car park

Projects that are eligible for funding include community projects, new-builds, refurbishments to existing community buildings, play and recreation equipment and public art. Organisations can apply for 50 per cent of the cost of a project, up to a maximum of £25,000.

The next deadline for applications is 19 May 2017. For more information, please visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/CAF or phone 01264 368000

Go paperless!

Did you know that you can manage your Council Tax or Business Rates account online?

Almost 2,000 Test Valley residents have already signed up to go paperless. Whether you opt for e-billing or continue to receive a hard copy bill, you can take advantage of a number of online facilities to manage your account.

You can notify us of a change of

address, apply for - or cancel - a single person discount, set up or amend direct debit details and view your account balance and instalment details.

We also offer online services for Business Rates accounts so that businesses can view their accounts and payments, set up direct debits and check the rateable value of their property.

If you would like to register for online billing, please visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/counciltaxpaperless or www.testvalley.gov.uk/businessratespaperless.

You will need your Account Reference and Online Key, both of which are shown on your latest bill. If you do not have these details to hand, please email counciltax@testvalley.gov.uk with your full name, property address and the email address that you'd like your bills to be sent to.

Make sure you're registered to vote

Test Valley Borough Council is preparing for elections to Hampshire County Council, which will take place on Thursday, 4 May 2017.

Residents are required to register themselves to ensure they are eligible to vote. If you are not on the Register of Electors, you cannot vote and your voice will not be heard. Not being on the Electoral Register can also affect your credit rating.

If you're not sure whether you are registered, please contact the Council and we will be able to tell you. If necessary, you can then register online by visiting www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. You will need to provide your name, address and date of birth. You will also need to provide your National Insurance Number, which can be found on your national insurance card or on official paperwork such as payslips or letters about benefits or tax credits.

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Council on 01264 368000 and we will help you to register. Alternatively, email us at elecrag@testvalley.gov.uk

In order to vote at the elections in May, you need to have registered by Thursday, 13 April 2017.

If you cannot get to a polling station on polling day, you can apply to vote by post or appoint someone else (a proxy) to vote for you. Further information and forms can be found on the Council's website at www.testvalley.gov.uk, or you can contact us to request that the forms are sent to you. We must receive applications to vote by post by 5pm on 18 April 2017 and applications to vote by proxy by 5pm on 25 April 2017.

Remember - if you are not registered, you cannot vote.



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www.enhamtrust.org.uk/respite

0845 1307 504

residentialcare@enhamtrust.org.uk



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Affordable homes for **Abbotswood**

The Abbotswood housing development near Romsey continues to grow, with the latest phase of affordable homes now nearing completion. Work began back in 2011 after planning permission was granted for up to 790 dwellings. It is anticipated that the site will be completed by the end of 2017 and will include a convenience store, day nursery, public house, retail units and a community centre.

With the help of a Community Development Worker at Test Valley Borough Council, residents have formed the Abbotswood Community Association, which has already organised a number of engaging events including quiz nights and barbecues.

The Association will also operate the new community centre, which local groups will be able to use to host community events and groups.

Housing and Environmental Health Portfolio Holder, Councillor Sandra Hawke, said:

“The Abbotswood housing development looks great and the residents have created a strong community. It is very satisfying to watch the development grow and to see the residents enjoying the new facilities and encouraging more community involvement.”



The Abbotswood community has its own newsletter which is available on the Community and Leisure pages of the Council's website. If you are interested in finding out more, or exploring shared ownership housing options, please contact Help to Buy South by visiting www.helptobuysouth.co.uk.

Family benefits from **specialised accommodation**

An Andover family in need of specialised ground floor accommodation has been able to move into a new adapted affordable home, thanks to strong partner ship working between Test Valley Borough Council, Aster Group and Hampshire County Council.

One family member's disabilities meant that their previous home, a standard two bedroom house, with steps to the front and rear of the property, was

not sustainable for the long term and caused difficulties for the family.

Test Valley Borough Council works with other organisations to monitor the need for adapted properties and match residents with suitable dwellings where possible.

The new home is a three bedroom ground floor maisonette which has been specifically adapted for their needs. Everything is on one level, there is a wet room and the kitchen sink and hobs can be lowered. The wide hallway makes it easier to access for a wheelchair user.

The residents have also installed a hydrotherapy pool in the garden. The home has improved mobility for the disabled person, making family life more comfortable.

Calling all **landlords and tenants**

Properties occupied by at least three people who are not from one 'household' (e.g. a family), but share facilities like the bathroom and kitchen, are known as Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).

Test Valley Borough Council would like to find out where all HMOs are in the borough so that we can ensure they are up to the required standard and licensed if necessary.

The Council is responsible for the licensing of large HMOs, however, the Government is proposing to extend the Council's remit to include licensing for smaller HMOs as well.

If you are living in, or renting out a HMO, please get in touch with the Private Sector Housing team by emailing phousing@testvalley.gov.uk or phoning **01264 368000**. We will publish updates on HMO legislation on our website as more information becomes available.

Get smart with a new **energy meter**

Householders across Britain will soon be offered a smart meter which will replace their traditional energy meters and make it easier to track energy usage. Smart meters are the new generation of gas and electricity meters being rolled out across Great Britain and are paving the way for a smarter, greener and more energy-efficient future.

The roll out will affect every household and microbusiness in England, Scotland and Wales. Between now and 2020, energy suppliers will offer their customers a smart meter at no extra cost. The new technology will provide users with the information they need to work out whether they are getting the best deal or if they should switch to a different tariff or supplier.

For more information about the scheme, visit www.smartenergygb.org.



Pay for your stay by card



Andover shoppers can pay for their car parking by card if they use the Chantry Centre car park.

On arrival, visitors will need to insert their credit or debit card into the machine, located on Level 1A, and key in their vehicle's registration number. At the end of their visit, they simply insert the same card into the machine again and it will calculate the duration of the stay and charge accordingly.

Planning Policy and Transport Portfolio Holder, Councillor Martin Hatley, said: *"The Council is committed to encouraging shoppers into Andover and making it as convenient as possible for them to stay for longer. The new machines provide the public with another option to pay for their parking in addition to the machines that continue to accept coins."*

The system does not produce a pay and display ticket but will record the time that the credit or debit card was inserted, along with its associated vehicle registration number. This means that the Council's parking team can monitor which vehicles have valid parking tickets.

Councillor Hatley continued: *"Many people prefer to pay for services using cards these days so we are really pleased to offer this option to shoppers in Andover."*

Romsey Future



The Romsey Future partnership has made excellent progress on the delivery of a number of projects since the launch of its vision document last year.

More than 200 people attended the Romsey Future winter event at Romsey Town Hall in November, where the partnership hosted an exhibition of its achievements to date. At the event, visitors found out more information about projects including increasing

tourism in the town, improving walking and cycling facilities and enhancing health and wellbeing opportunities.

At the event, residents voted on the project they would like to see receive up to £5,000 from Romsey Future. The vote was also available online until the end of December. After more than 300 votes were cast it was announced that the winner of the funding was a project to increase cycle parking in the town.

Councillor Martin Hatley, who has been coordinating the Romsey Future programme, said: *"It is fantastic that the partnership has been able to make progress on a variety of projects based on local people's ambitions for Romsey. Representatives from local community groups and organisations across the town are working together to achieve the aims set out in the vision document."*

Visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/romseyfuture to find out about the vision for Romsey over the next 20 years. If you would like to be involved in any of the Romsey Future projects, please email romseyfuture@testvalley.gov.uk.

Andover Vision



More than a thousand Andover residents, businesses, community groups and local councillors have been expressing their views on how to make Andover a successful and thriving town for the next 20 years.

Over the past six months, various workshops, stakeholder meetings and events have gathered feedback from residents, which will contribute to a new vision document for the town. The document will set out the 20 year plan for Andover and will be launched on 8 April 2017.

Many residents will remember seeing Andover Vision at the Christmas Lights Switch On in the town centre in November 2016, where more than 90 residents told us what their 'Christmas Wish for Andover' was. Some suggestions included 'making sure people appreciate that Andover is great' and 'prosperity in the town in 2017'

Young people across Andover have also had the opportunity to provide their ideas on how to make Andover great, now and in the future. Students at Harrow Way School, Portway Junior School and Roman Way School have been involved in discussions about how Andover can support their aspirations for the future.

In addition, Andover Vision has also been talking to a number of other key groups. A consultation was held with young mums at the Yellow Brick Road project, and a workshop was held at the Andover and District Older People's Forum.

A stakeholder group made up of business representatives, community groups and local councillors have met to discuss the ideas made by residents, and have brought them together to create five ambitions for the town, which contribute to the overall vision document.

If you would like to get involved or learn more about Andover Vision, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/andovervision, or email us at andovervision@testvalley.gov.uk.

Community benefits from councillor grants

In Valley Park, three children will see pictures they drew turned into signs that will encourage dog owners to clear up after their pet, thanks to a Councillor Community Grant from Councillor Alan Dowden, Councillor Kath Tilling and Councillor Andrew Beesley.



The three ward members presented a £1,000 grant to Valley Park Parish Council to create the signs from images submitted in a children's drawing competition.

Around 40 children took part in the drawing competition last year.

The three winners, Sarah Moore, Jessica Billimore and Aminah Tadvi, all aged 9, will see their pictures turned into metal signs, bin stickers and laminated posters, and displayed around Valley Park.

Test Valley Borough Council's Councillor Community Grant scheme helps to fund community-led initiatives that are identified as meeting a need in the community, based on feedback from residents.

Summer months mean **business as usual**

Business owners in Romsey are delighted that they will be able to trade as usual during the busy summer period after Hampshire County Council and Test Valley Borough Council listened to their concerns and postponed improvement works in the town.

Enhancement work in Bell Street will now begin in January 2018 so that traders will not see any disruption during their busiest time of year when residents and visitors enjoy shopping for longer. Advance drainage works will take place between September and October 2017 in preparation for the main work to start in January.

Once complete, the newly-designed Bell Street will be more accessible to pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs. Overall traffic speed will reduce and the area

will be much more attractive for all who live, work and shop there.

The improvements will also provide residents, as well as the many visitors to the area, with a fresh-looking town centre that will be easier to navigate on foot, while maintaining the look of the town's character.

Test Valley Borough Council Planning Policy and Transport Portfolio Holder, Councillor Martin Hatley, said:

"We have worked closely with Hampshire County Council and business owners in Bell Street and listened to their concerns about the impact of work carried out in the summer. The first phase of the overall Romsey improvements in Church Street was a huge success, so we are looking forward to continuing the good work in other areas of the town."

Improvements to Market Place will follow after the Bell Street works are complete.

My Test Valley



Test Valley residents can use the My Test Valley app to carry out even more tasks from their phone.

As well as being able to report missed bin collections, incidents of fly-tipped waste and overgrown hedges, users can also order or amend garden waste subscriptions, request their street to be cleaned, report any concerns they come across at playgrounds, and much more!

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. Residents can download My Test Valley from the Apple App Store, Google Play or the Windows Store.

If you don't have a smartphone, please visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/mytestvalley and follow the instructions to report your concern.

Get on your bike with **Romsey Cycle Hub**

More people are being encouraged to take to the streets of Romsey on two wheels. This is part of a new community-led initiative, that has arisen as part of the Romsey Future process.

Romsey Cycle Hub is a community group that shares information about cycling in Romsey, promotes the benefits of getting on a bike, and seeks to improve cycling facilities in the town.

The group was formed shortly after the Romsey Future partnership announced

that additional cycle parking facilities received the highest number of votes in its quick-win project. The partnership will install bike racks at a variety of locations around Romsey, which will mean that cyclists can secure their bikes safely, and easily access all areas of the town.

Janet Burnage, who is leading on the cycling and walking initiatives for Romsey Future, said: "Cycling in Romsey is becoming increasingly popular for individuals and families in and around our town so we are really excited about launching this new hub. We are looking forward to working with the Council and the Romsey Future partnership to take our ideas forward over the coming years."

Councillor Martin Hatley, who has been co-ordinating the Romsey Future programme, added: "It's great to see that local people have been inspired by Romsey Future. The cycle hub is a great idea that many people will be able to get involved in for years to come."

More information about the Romsey Cycle Hub, including maps, can be found at www.romseycyclehub.weebly.com or via its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/romseycyclehub.

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A river runs through it

The River Anton is one of Andover's most important natural features. As the river flows through the town there are many opportunities for the public to enjoy it, thanks to the riverside paths and green spaces. The River Anton supports a rich variety of wildlife, including fish such as brown trout and grayling, and mammals such as water vole and otter.

A survey conducted by the Environment Agency in 2016, along a 100 metre stretch of river at Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve, caught 68 wild brown trout, 92 bullhead and four eels. These species are indicators of river quality, as both require good river conditions to live and spawn.

The Riverfly Partnership, which provides information and resources about river maintenance to local groups, has launched a riverfly monitoring initiative

which members of The Anton River Conservation Association (TARCA) regularly take part in. This work helps to monitor the number of invertebrates, including mayfly and stonefly, along with caddis and freshwater shrimp, at specific points along the river, and provides useful information about levels of pollution in the river.

The River Anton Enhancement Scheme began in 2008 with the aim of improving the river and its value for both wildlife and people. Now nearly 10 years on, the river has changed considerably in places. However, there is still a long way to go. Test Valley Borough Council is continuing to work in partnership with the Environment Agency, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and TARCA, to devise plans to create healthier river banks and areas of wetland to encourage more wildlife into the parts of the river that flow through Andover.



Photography by Paul Colley

If you would like to get involved with the River Anton management and enhancement work, or become a volunteer, please contact the Council's Community and Leisure Service by emailing community&leisure@testvalley.gov.uk or visiting www.testvalley.gov.uk/riveranton.

Bread puts ducks at risk

Feeding ducks is an activity that many of us have enjoyed at some stage in our lives. However, you may not know that what appears to be a harmless pastime may cause harm to our local ducks and the wider environment.

Unfortunately, bread is one of the unhealthiest foods that we can feed ducks because of its low nutritional benefit. Bread can put ducks at risk of a disease known as angel wing, an incurable condition that leaves them unable to fly and vulnerable to predation.

It is not only the ducks and geese that are directly at risk. Uneaten bread also spreads disease and attracts pests such as rats and pigeons. Feeding also

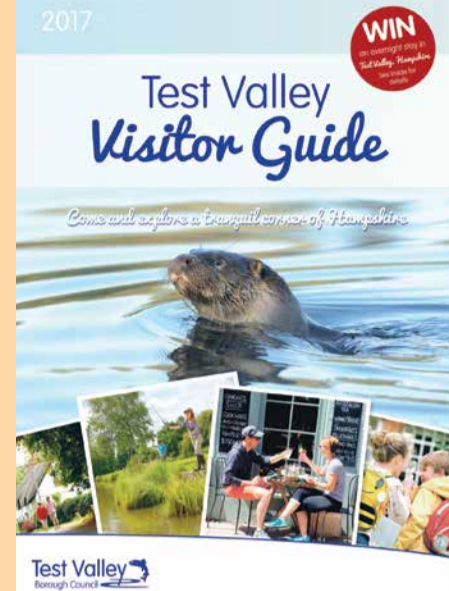
encourages birds to gather in large numbers, for example, approximately 200 ducks can be seen in Andover Town Centre by the Town Mill at certain times. The increased nutrients in the water from uneaten bread and the increased bird droppings also have a negative impact on the water quality.

The Canal and Rivers Trust is encouraging members of the public to swap bread for a healthier alternative such as grape halves, barley, oats or defrosted peas or sweetcorn, which all provide a healthy alternative to bread. It is also a good idea to choose to feed the ducks away from a spot popular with lots of people. This way we can help maintain a healthy duck population.

Welcoming visitors to Test Valley

The 2017 edition of the Test Valley Visitor Guide was launched at Excursions, an exhibition which promotes group holidays and travel in the south of England, at Alexandra Palace, London, on 28 January 2017.

The guide is packed with unmissable attractions and events and photos of stunning scenery, and readers will also be able to learn about the borough's fantastic accommodation and eateries.



Visitors and local residents can pick up a copy of the 2017 Test Valley Visitor Guide at the Tourist Information Centre in Romsey and other visitor attractions throughout the borough.

Visitor wins return trip

A large number of people entered the Test Valley Visitor Guide prize draw last year.

Tina Downs from Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, was the lucky winner of the draw when Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Karen Hamilton, chose her name at random.

Tina won a delicious three course dinner and bed and breakfast for two at The White Horse Hotel in Romsey, a beautiful 14th-century hotel in the heart of the town, just a few yards away from Romsey Abbey.



Sarah Bingham, Manager of the White Horse Hotel and Brasserie, with the Mayor of Test Valley

Tina said: "One of our favourite things about visiting friends in Andover is our long, leisurely Sunday morning walks in the beautiful countryside which are rounded off with lunch in a charming country pub. We are thrilled to have won a stay at the White Horse in Romsey and already have Romsey Abbey, a spot of boutique shopping and, of course, the New Forest on our list of 'must dos'."

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www.armyflying.com

Charities can see their name in flowers

Andover-based charities could see their name in flowers on one of the town's open spaces during the summer months.

Test Valley Borough Council is preparing a ten year schedule of floral displays for two flowerbeds located in Andover. The authority is calling for charities to contact its Community

and Leisure team if they would like to see their name and significant dates planted into the ground.

Andover Mencap, the Macular Society and the Andover branch of Parkinson's UK have all seen their logo planted into the flowerbeds at Weyhill Road and South Street in the past.

If you would like more information about this free opportunity, please email Community&Leisure@testvalley.gov.uk

Big Band Buffet



More than 150 residents enjoyed Test Valley Borough Council's fourth Big Band Buffet, which was held at Test Valley School, Stockbridge, earlier this year.

The day was packed with live music, information, delicious food and drink and an opportunity to meet with friends and speak with representatives from local groups.

Guests also heard presentations from representatives from Test

Valley Borough Council, Hampshire Constabulary, Southern Health's Falls Prevention Team, and the Memory Box Project, a new and exciting scheme run by The Wessex Heritage Trust, which enables people with dementia to capture and share memories.

Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Karen Hamilton, opened the event which was kindly supported by Simply Health, the Stockbridge Scouts and the Clive Fortune Big Band.



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INSPIRE

SUCCEED

Get snapping this spring at The Lights



The spring season at The Lights will take customers from the winter gloom right through to the sunshine and showers of April.

In October, The Lights celebrated its 10th birthday, so for the whole of the tenth year the venue is packing in even more to appeal to as wide an audience as possible. Headline acts include riotous comedy from Richard Herring, Andy Parsons and Russell Kane. Music lovers have all sorts to tempt them - from Talon - the Acoustic Collection - to tributes from ColdPlace and the Billy Joel songbook. Family entertainment includes Tom Thumb, a musical Alice in Wonderland and the Easter Bunny's Adventure, as well as a whole host of children's workshops in the school holidays.

As part of its tenth anniversary The Lights is launching a special photography competition, and is calling for customers to send in photographs related to the venue - it could be an artist, a show, a snap shot of the building or grounds or even one of the famous cakes in the Arena café!

The Lights team will choose their top entries for display on the venue's public exhibition wall throughout August. Members of the public will then be invited to vote for their favourite, and the winner will receive £50 of Lights vouchers.

The closing date for the competition is Monday, 31 July. Entries should be emailed to stop@thelights.org.uk or hard copies can be delivered direct to the venue. Get snapping!

Drumming up **business**

Andover High Street will be hosting two Business Fairs this year so that local organisations can showcase their work.

The fairs are designed to help local companies who don't have a town centre presence to reach a wider audience and network with other businesses. They also help local people find out more about companies that are right on their doorstep. Previous Business Fairs have included everything from electrical services, business management and security to property services, legal advice and dance schools.

The Business Fairs will be held on Friday, 5 May and Friday, 8 September from 10am to 4pm.

If you work for a local business and would like to take part in the 2017 Fairs, or are interested in finding out more about fairs in 2018, please email hwhittam@testvalley.gov.uk

Broadband **boost**

High speed broadband is now available at two of Andover's largest business parks, thanks to a joint venture between Test Valley Borough Council and Virgin Media Business.

Portway and Walworth Business Parks are now fully equipped with the infrastructure required to offer tenants a 100, 200 and 300Mbps service to enable their business to benefit from faster internet.

PLP has operated from West Portway Business Park since 1974 and is being connected to 100Mbps broadband.

Residents in rural parts of Test Valley are also hoping to benefit from faster broadband after more than 1,200 households and businesses in villages including West Tytherley, Timsbury, Houghton and Michelmersh registered their interest in Virgin Media's Virtual Town project. If the project goes ahead, Virgin

Media will roll out fibre optic cable directly into homes and businesses that can only currently receive partial coverage. The project would come with a whole range of benefits including future-proof technology and broadband speeds of up to 200Mbps.

John Bentley, Operations Director, said: *"As a business that is reliant on technology and part of a global group with international customers, it is essential for us to have access to fast, reliable and good-value broadband. PLP was one of the first businesses to sign up and we are confident that the service will enable us to thrive in Andover for years to come."*

For more information please visit www.facebook.com/tvneed4speed

News **travels far**



More than 100 people have signed up to the Council's brand new business e-newsletter, which is packed full of details about networking events and local business news.

The newsletter complements the Council's support for new and existing businesses in the borough by providing regular information about all kinds of news, networking opportunities, events and legislation. It also includes a link to the Council's calendar of local business events, and offers opportunities to get involved in relevant initiatives.

If you would like to sign up to receive the newsletter, please email business@testvalley.gov.uk and we will add you to the subscriber list.

Starting a business in **Test Valley?**

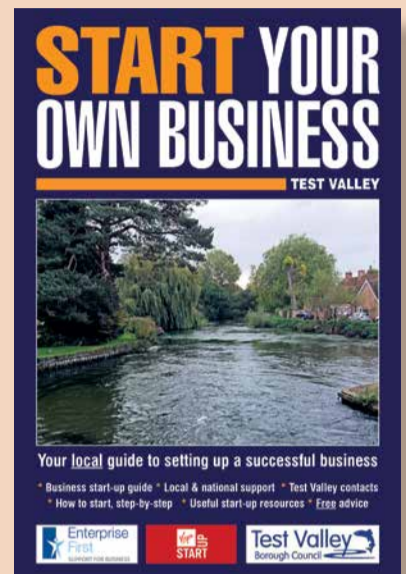
A new book that pulls together everything you need to know about starting a business in Test Valley has been published.

Test Valley Borough Council has worked with Enterprise First, a not-for-profit company that offers independent advice, mentoring and practical workshops to publish 'Start Your Own Business.'

The book is available at www.syob.net/test-valley where visitors can download a copy or request a printed version. The 180-page publication covers topics such as market research, business planning, business law and online marketing.

Test Valley's economy runs through the heart of the publication, meaning budding entrepreneurs benefit from

local knowledge, local events and local networking opportunities. If you're thinking about becoming your own boss but you're not sure where to start, make sure you grab a copy of this excellent, practical guide.



Funding for rural businesses

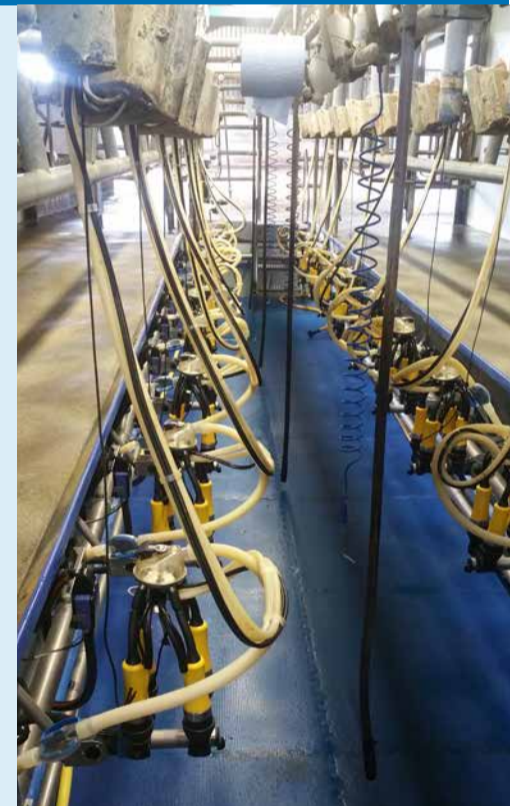
Rural businesses across Test Valley have a fantastic opportunity to apply for funding to help their business to grow.

The Government's LEADER programme is designed to support farmers, land owners, businesses and community organisations that contribute to rural development and create new jobs.

The Loddon and Test programme, which covers most of Test Valley, has an impressive £1.3million of funding to offer small businesses. Successful applicants include Houghton Lodge, which was awarded a grant of £50,000 to contribute to building new visitor accommodation, and Lamberts Dairy, which has been able to purchase a modern cow-milking system.

Robert Benford, Chair of the Loddon and Test Local Action Group, said:

"It is wonderful to be able to fund so many innovative projects that help us to grow our local economy, create jobs and enhance community services. If you have a project idea, or a business you'd like to grow, please give us a ring for an informal chat. We're happy to help in any way we can."



If you'd like to find out more about the grants available from LEADER, please visit www.ruralfunding.co.uk or contact:

North Wessex Downs LEADER, covering Bourne Valley:

Dawn Hamblin
Dawn.Hamblin@wiltshire.gov.uk

Loddon and Test LEADER:
Emily Preston
Emily.Preston@hants.gov.uk

New Forest LEADER:
Sally Igra
Sally.Igra@nfdc.gov.uk

Council Tax 2017/18

Test Valley Borough Council, as Billing Authority for the Test Valley Borough Council area, on 24th day of February 2017, calculated and set in accordance with Section 30, Local Government Finance Act 1992 the following amounts of Council Tax for the year 2017/2018 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Parish/area of	Category of Dwelling (Banding)							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Abbots Ann	1,020.65	1,190.75	1,360.87	1,530.97	1,871.19	2,211.40	2,551.62	3,061.94
Ampfield	1,027.50	1,198.75	1,370.01	1,541.25	1,883.75	2,226.25	2,568.75	3,082.50
Amport	1,013.20	1,182.06	1,350.94	1,519.80	1,857.54	2,195.27	2,533.00	3,039.60
Andover Town	1,027.15	1,198.33	1,369.54	1,540.72	1,883.11	2,225.48	2,567.87	3,081.44
Appleshaw	1,022.41	1,192.80	1,363.22	1,533.61	1,874.42	2,215.21	2,556.02	3,067.22
Awbridge	1,016.19	1,185.55	1,354.92	1,524.28	1,863.01	2,201.74	2,540.47	3,048.56
Barton Stacey	1,032.12	1,204.14	1,376.17	1,548.18	1,892.22	2,236.26	2,580.30	3,096.36
Braishfield	1,028.36	1,199.75	1,371.15	1,542.54	1,885.33	2,228.11	2,570.90	3,085.08
Broughton	1,029.62	1,201.22	1,372.83	1,544.43	1,887.64	2,230.84	2,574.05	3,088.86
Bullington	1,026.99	1,198.15	1,369.32	1,540.48	1,882.81	2,225.14	2,567.47	3,080.96
Charlton	1,015.18	1,184.36	1,353.57	1,522.76	1,861.16	2,199.54	2,537.94	3,045.52
Chilbolton	1,015.91	1,185.22	1,354.55	1,523.86	1,862.50	2,201.13	2,539.77	3,047.72
Chilworth	1,032.34	1,204.38	1,376.45	1,548.50	1,892.62	2,236.72	2,580.84	3,097.00
East Dean	1,022.48	1,192.88	1,363.31	1,533.71	1,874.54	2,215.36	2,556.19	3,067.42
East Tytherley	1,024.90	1,195.71	1,366.54	1,537.35	1,878.99	2,220.62	2,562.25	3,074.70
Enham Alamein	1,017.12	1,186.64	1,356.17	1,525.68	1,864.72	2,203.76	2,542.80	3,051.36
Fyfield	1,026.99	1,198.15	1,369.32	1,540.48	1,882.81	2,225.14	2,567.47	3,080.96
Goodworth Clatford	1,030.50	1,202.25	1,374.01	1,545.75	1,889.25	2,232.75	2,576.25	3,091.50
Grateley	1,020.63	1,190.73	1,360.84	1,530.94	1,871.15	2,211.36	2,551.57	3,061.88
Houghton	1,028.48	1,199.88	1,371.31	1,542.71	1,885.54	2,228.36	2,571.19	3,085.42
Hurstbourne Tarrant	1,025.47	1,196.37	1,367.30	1,538.20	1,880.03	2,221.84	2,563.67	3,076.40
Kimpton	1,038.55	1,211.63	1,384.74	1,557.82	1,904.01	2,250.18	2,596.37	3,115.64
King's Somborne	1,031.30	1,203.18	1,375.07	1,546.95	1,890.72	2,234.48	2,578.25	3,093.90
Lockerley	1,022.52	1,192.93	1,363.36	1,533.77	1,874.61	2,215.44	2,556.29	3,067.54
Longparish	1,034.35	1,206.73	1,379.14	1,551.52	1,896.31	2,241.08	2,585.87	3,103.04
Longstock	1,019.46	1,189.36	1,359.28	1,529.18	1,869.00	2,208.81	2,548.64	3,058.36
Melchet Park & Plaitford	1,015.88	1,185.18	1,354.51	1,523.81	1,862.44	2,201.06	2,539.69	3,047.62
Michelpersham & Timsbury	1,023.08	1,193.58	1,364.11	1,534.61	1,875.64	2,216.66	2,557.69	3,069.22
Monxton	1,028.00	1,199.32	1,370.67	1,541.99	1,884.66	2,227.32	2,569.99	3,083.98
Mottisfont	1,028.53	1,199.94	1,371.38	1,542.79	1,885.64	2,228.47	2,571.32	3,085.58
Nether Wallop	1,020.47	1,190.54	1,360.63	1,530.70	1,870.86	2,211.01	2,551.17	3,061.40
North Baddesley	1,025.56	1,196.47	1,367.41	1,538.33	1,880.19	2,222.03	2,563.89	3,076.66
Nursling & Rownhams	1,016.96	1,186.44	1,355.95	1,525.43	1,864.42	2,203.40	2,542.39	3,050.86
Over Wallop	1,027.36	1,198.57	1,369.81	1,541.03	1,883.49	2,225.93	2,568.39	3,082.06
Penton Grafton	1,017.77	1,187.39	1,357.03	1,526.65	1,865.91	2,205.16	2,544.42	3,053.30
Penton Mewsey	1,029.17	1,200.69	1,372.23	1,543.75	1,886.81	2,229.86	2,572.92	3,087.50
Quarley	1,021.15	1,191.33	1,361.54	1,531.72	1,872.11	2,212.48	2,552.87	3,063.44
Romsey Extra	1,013.76	1,182.72	1,351.69	1,520.64	1,858.56	2,196.48	2,534.40	3,041.28
Romsey Town	1,025.12	1,195.97	1,366.83	1,537.68	1,879.39	2,221.09	2,562.80	3,075.36
Sherfield English	1,019.92	1,189.89	1,359.89	1,529.87	1,869.85	2,209.81	2,549.79	3,059.74
Shipton Bellinger	1,038.42	1,211.49	1,384.57	1,557.63	1,903.77	2,249.91	2,596.05	3,115.26
Smannell	1,011.42	1,179.99	1,348.57	1,517.13	1,854.27	2,191.41	2,528.55	3,034.26
Stockbridge	1,038.30	1,211.35	1,384.41	1,557.45	1,903.55	2,249.65	2,595.75	3,114.90
Tangley	1,018.62	1,188.38	1,358.16	1,527.92	1,867.46	2,206.99	2,546.54	3,055.84
Thrupton	1,034.51	1,206.92	1,379.35	1,551.76	1,896.60	2,241.43	2,586.27	3,103.52
Upper Clatford	1,014.84	1,183.97	1,353.12	1,522.25	1,860.53	2,198.80	2,537.09	3,044.50
Valley Park	1,007.00	1,174.82	1,342.67	1,510.49	1,846.16	2,181.82	2,517.49	3,020.98
Vernham Dean	1,022.85	1,193.32	1,363.80	1,534.27	1,875.22	2,216.17	2,557.12	3,068.54
Wellow	1,028.37	1,199.76	1,371.16	1,542.55	1,885.34	2,228.13	2,570.92	3,085.10
WestTytherley & Frenchmoor	1,021.28	1,191.48	1,361.71	1,531.91	1,872.34	2,212.76	2,553.19	3,063.82
Wherwell	1,022.24	1,192.61	1,362.99	1,533.36	1,874.11	2,214.85	2,555.60	3,066.72
All other parts of the Council's area	999.21	1,165.74	1,332.28	1,498.81	1,831.88	2,164.95	2,498.02	2,997.62

Head of Finance

Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, Hampshire SP10 3AJ

24 February 2017

Romsey retailer reaps reward



Test Valley Borough Council has presented the first £500 instalment of a £1,000 Independent Retailer Grant to Rachel Belle following the opening of her new shop, Romsey Picture Framing Company, at 70 The Hundred.

The new venture sees Rachel open her second framing shop in Test Valley as she builds on her experience of owning

and managing the successful Andover Framing and Photo.

Recipients of the £1,000 grant receive £500 after three months of trading and a further £500 six months later. To be eligible for the grant, new or existing independent businesses must occupy a town centre ground floor unit which has been vacant for at least one month. Qualifying businesses include shops, restaurants and hair salons.

Rachel said: "We have been providing a professional framing service in Andover for more than 25 years and have gained a reputation for framing a wide range of unusual and oversized items. We're very fortunate to be able to expand our portfolio by opening a second business in Test Valley."

Abbey ward member, Councillor Clive Collier, said: "Rachel is a very worthy recipient of the Independent Retailer Grant. The unit was vacant for a number of months before Rachel moved in, so it's great to see that she has taken the opportunity to open a second shop in the borough."



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nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont



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When you visit, donate, volunteer or join the National Trust, your support helps us to look after special places in Hampshire such as Mottisfont for ever, for everyone.

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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 at www.testvalley.gov.uk/events

The Lights, Andover

Dr Phil's Health Revolution	14 March, 7.45pm
Pride and Prejudice – The Pantaloons.....	16 March, 7.30pm
Derek Acorah – Whispers from Heaven.....	17 March, 7.45pm
Talon – the Acoustic Collection	18 March, 7.45pm
Coldplace	24 March, 8pm
Billy Joel Songbook.....	25 March, 7pm
The Fureys.....	29 March, 7.45pm
Doug Scott	30 March, 7.30pm
Mayor's Variety Show	31 March, 7pm
Tom Thumb	1 April, 10.30am
Fay Hield and the Hurricane Party.....	4 April, 7.45pm
Richard Herring.....	6 April, 8pm
The Milk Men	8 April, 8pm
Alice in Wonderland	11 April, 2pm
Ash Dykes.....	12 April, 7.30pm
Lipstick on Your Collar	13 April, 7.45pm
Andy Parsons.....	19 April, 8pm
Easter Bunny's Adventure.....	20 April, 2pm
Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman.....	21 April, 8pm
Real Diamond	22 April, 7.45pm
Russell Kane – Right Man, Wrong Age.....	25 April, 8pm
Music and Memories.....	26 April, 2pm
Johnny Cash Roadshow	28 April, 7.45pm
Alice in Wonderland – Ballet Theatre UK.....	29 April, 7pm
Terry Alderton.....	5 May, 8pm
Dave Gorman's Screen Guild	8 May, 7.30pm
Hamlet.....	10 May, 7pm
Jethro – Bull and Bonkers Tour.....	11 May, 7.30pm
80's Party Night.....	13 May, 7.30pm

The Plaza, Romsey

Pride and Prejudice.....	14 to 18 March, 7.30pm
Dancing at Lughnasa.....	19 March, 7.30pm
On and On and On ABBA Tribute	24 March, 7.30pm
Bingo! The Winning Musical.....	12 to 15 April, 7.30pm
Charley's Aunt.....	20 April, 7.30pm
Don't Get Your Vicars in a Twist.....	9 to 13 May, 7.30pm
Miss Julie	13 to 17 June, 7.30pm

Weyhill Electronic Organ Society

16 March	Dave Smith
20 April	Claudia Hirschfeld
18 May	Pete Shaw

Parks and countryside

River clean up	
Meet at Anton Mill car park	18 March, 10am to 12pm
Birch clearance	
Meet at Knightwood Leisure Centre	19 March, 10am to 12pm
River clean up	
Meet at Rooksbury Mill LNR	2 April, 10am to 2pm
Big litter pick	
Meet at Anton Lakes LNR	22 April, 10am to 2pm
Sycamore Removal	
Meet at top of Morgan Le Fay Drive	23 April, 10am to 12pm
Discovery Day	
Tadburn Meadows LNR	7 May, 10am to 2pm
Reserve maintenance	
Meet at Rooksbury Mill LNR	7 May, 10am to 2pm
Big litter pick	
Meet at Hedge End Road playing fields	21 May, 10am to 2pm

Events information

For events at The Lights book online at 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 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 Just Teasin, Bridge Street, Andover or £6 on the door, subject to availability.
 For more information contact 01264 323213 or visit www.weyhill-eos.co.uk.

Council meetings

13 March to 30 April

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. Meeting details are correct at the time of printing.

Please visit www.testvalley.gov.uk for up to date information.

March 2017			
14.3.17	Southern Area Planning Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
15.3.17	Cabinet	Romsey	5.30pm
16.3.17	Licensing Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
21.3.17	Planning Control Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
22.3.17	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
23.3.17	Council	Romsey	4.00pm
30.3.17	Northern Area Planning Committee	Andover	5.30pm
April 2017			
4.4.17	Southern Area Planning Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
11.4.17	Planning Control Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
12.4.17	Council	Romsey	4.00pm
18.4.17	Licensing Committee	Andover Guildhall	5.30pm
19.4.17	General Purposes Committee	Andover Guildhall	4.00pm
19.4.17	Cabinet	Andover Guildhall	5.30pm
20.4.17	Northern Area Planning Committee	Andover Guildhall	5.30pm
25.4.17	Southern Area Planning Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
26.4.17	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Andover Guildhall	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.

Test Valley News is produced and distributed by Test Valley Borough Council.

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Advertising: Test Valley Borough Council has certain statutory and regulatory duties. Appearance of any advertising in this publication should not be considered an endorsement from the Council of any organisation to which these duties apply.

As part of the Council's commitment to enhance and preserve the environment, Test Valley News is printed on recycled paper. For more information see:

www.testvalley.gov.uk or call the Editor on 01264 368108.

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



You can contact the following at:
Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, SP10 3AJ
 Telephone: 01264 368000

Chief Executive	Roger Tetstall
Corporate Director	Andy Ferrier
Corporate Director	Carol Moore
Head of Legal and Democratic Services	Karen Dunn (Interim)
Head of Estates and Economic Development	Simon Ellis
Head of Finance Services	William Fullbrook
Head of IT Services	Tony Fawcett
Acting Head of Revenues (Local Taxation and Project Enterprise) ..	Carl Whatley
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	Position vacant