



# Test Valley News

**In this issue...**

Andover Vision  
Romsey Future

2  
3

Get active in Test Valley  
Get ready for Christmas

6-7  
10

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Residents and visitors will soon be able to enjoy even more of the Borough's unique wildlife as Fishlake Meadows receives a major enhancement.

The 60-hectare local nature reserve near Romsey is home to a large and diverse selection of wildlife including water vole, otter, dragonfly, damselfly and more than 150 species of bird. The site boasts an unusual combination of open and standing water, reed bed and swamp which create an array of unique habitats rarely seen elsewhere in our chalk river valleys.

The reserve's bright future is thanks to a new partnership between Test Valley Borough Council and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. The Trust was awarded the contract after it successfully bid for the project earlier this year.



Photo thanks to HIWWT Tony Wright

Priorities for the site include maintaining the diverse range of species of flora and fauna, improving visitor access and developing opportunities for the community to view and understand the wildlife. Officers from the Trust are already engaging with local residents to find out what they would like to see and to share information about the project.

One of the biggest improvements to the site will be the improved public access. The Trust will carefully manage the balance between encouraging wildlife to flourish and allowing visitors to enjoy the natural beauty. Initial ideas include repairing the surface of the canal path, increasing accessibility for low-mobility users, creating new walking routes and installing better infrastructure such as boardwalks and hides.



Photo thanks to HIWWT



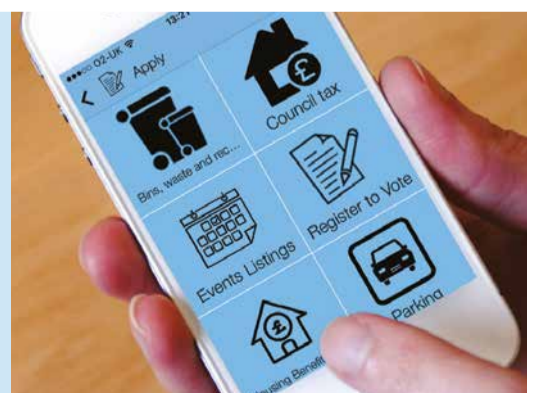
Photo thanks to HIWWT Tony Wright

## NEW DESIGNS FOR DIGITAL COUNCIL

As part of our journey of digital transformation, we are redesigning our organisation to ensure we are agile and innovative, making it as easy as possible to use our services and get in touch.

One of our latest projects is the creation of a responsive website that automatically reformats for mobile phones and tablets. It has also been re-designed to be more engaging and easily accessible. It complements the My Test Valley smartphone app which is now even more user-friendly thanks to a new design layout (pictured).

Residents and businesses can make payments online, sign up for garden waste and get in touch. It can also be used to report such things as missed bins, fly tipping and overgrown areas, with the ability to attach information including photos and videos.



Download the app from the [Apple App Store](#), [Windows Store](#) or [Google Play](#) or visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk/mytestvalley](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/mytestvalley) if you don't have a smartphone.



# ANDOVER VISION

After a year of consultation with residents, businesses, schools and community groups, Andover now has a document which will set out how the town will become an even better place to live.

The 20 year document has five ambitions for the town:

**To encourage a connected community:**

A connected Andover that inspires pride, celebrates diversity and is a community where everyone is welcome and wants to join in.

**To enjoy a great green environment:**

An Andover that enhances its green and recreational spaces and nurtures its natural environment.

**To have a thriving town centre:**

An Andover Town Centre that offers a unique experience and showcases its retail, leisure and heritage offer from day into evening.

**To support jobs, businesses and skills:**

An enterprising Andover that builds on its great location which encourages business and new talent to

start, grow and flourish.

**To ensure access to great health:**

An Andover where people live well and are able to make good lifestyle choices, with access to high quality facilities, support and information.

Throughout the summer, the Andover Vision team attended a variety of events including Augusta Park's 2nd birthday celebration, Harrow Way School's 50th anniversary fete, the Andover Carnival and the Four Fun Fridays events.

The Andover Vision partnership is currently in the process of finalising the action plan which will support the five ambitions. Current projects include increasing access to the countryside and time banking, where people who voluntarily give up their time to help someone can reclaim help from someone else at a later date.

The Andover Vision partnership has already facilitated the installation of two free outdoor table tennis tables, the vinyl artwork at the Dragon Garden restaurant on Bridge Street and the High Street arches.

For more information about Andover Vision, visit [www.facebook.com/andovervision](http://www.facebook.com/andovervision)

## BUSINESSES MAKE THEIR FACILITIES AVAILABLE

Andover's Community Toilet Scheme officially began in July with three town centre businesses pledging to make their facilities available to the public.

Costa, Caffé Nero and The Redbridge have all signed up to support the Council's commitment to providing public toilets free of charge. With Costa open from 7am and The Redbridge open until 11pm, the hours of operation have increased substantially from the 8am to 6pm that the public toilets

at George Yard were open.

The three eateries have each displayed a sticker in their window to show that they are part of the scheme. Maps in the town centre car parks show where the participating businesses, and additional public toilets in the Chantry Centre, can be found.

Similar schemes have been successful in other towns where participating businesses have reported increased footfall and trade as a result of signing up.

If you run a business in Andover Town Centre and would like to participate in the scheme, please email [estates@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:estates@testvalley.gov.uk) for more information.

## A BID TO BECOME A BID

Andover's quest to become a Business Improvement District (BID) has taken a step further now that specialist consultant, CMS, has been appointed to support the scheme.

Following a request from the Andover BID Steering Group, which asked the Council and Secretary of State to arrange a bid ballot, Test Valley Borough Council has invested £50,000 in securing the expert guidance from CMS. With experience in establishing

many other BIDs across the country, CMS will carry out the ballot process and work with town centre businesses to progress the initiative.

A BID is led and funded by businesses that would oversee town centre management within a defined area. The revenue generated by the initiative will be invested in activities and services which are decided by participating organisations to promote the town centre and its businesses.

Further information about the BID initiative can be found at [www.andoverbid.co.uk](http://www.andoverbid.co.uk)

## ARCHES LEAD THE WAY



Shoppers won't be able to miss more opportunities to explore Andover's retailers now that three bright and colourful new arches have been installed in the High Street.

Shops and businesses located at George Yard, Union Street and Globe Yard are all benefiting from prominent new entrances that direct visitors to their premises. Arches are also planned for Black Swan Yard, Kings Yard,

Shaws Walk and Waterloo Court.

The striking wrought iron arch at George Yard has an elaborate framework that complements the traditional exterior of The George Inn public house next door. Union Street's new curvy structure reaches into the alleyway itself, and the newest addition to the High Street, the Globe Yard arch, has a textured green fascia that sits above a curved framework.

22-30 Bridge Street,  
Andover,  
SP10 1BN

**Riverside**  
**BOWL**

Operated by  
**Valley Leisure**  
2000 people more active

**GET THE FAMILY TOGETHER THIS CHRISTMAS AT RIVERSIDE BOWL**

BOOK ONLINE: [WWW.RIVERSIDE-BOWL.CO.UK](http://WWW.RIVERSIDE-BOWL.CO.UK)

CALL RIVERSIDE BOWL: 01264 568192

TEN PIN BOWLING

GLO-GOLF

SNOOKER & POOL

AMERICAN DINER

BOOK A PARTY ROOM

RETRO ARCADE

Whether its for a bit of healthy competition, a celebration, or just for fun, Riverside Bowl is the perfect host for your family and friends this season.



**GCSE RESULTS 2017:**  
80% achieved a grade (9 to 4) in English and 71% in Maths.  
66% achieved a grade (9-4) in both English and Maths



Harrow Way is widely acknowledged as a very successful school dedicated to the achievement and well-being of all of its students.

We are a Mathematics and Computing Specialist School as well as being recognised by the Geographical Association as a Centre of Excellence and the National Arts Council with their prestigious Artsmark Gold Award. In addition we have been awarded Healthy School, a Bronze Award with the Teacher Development Trust, Unicef Rights Respecting School, Secondary Geography Quality Mark 2017 status and are a member of the Network of Teaching Excellence in Computer Science.

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

Visitors to the school are always welcome.

**Please contact us to arrange a tour.**



**Harrow Way**  
Community School

Specialist School in Maths & Computing

Harrow Way, Andover, Hampshire SP10 3RH  
Telephone: 01264 364533 [www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk](http://www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk)

Learning for life, SUCCESS for all

LEARN

INSPIRE

SUCCEED



# ROMSEY FUTURE

The Romsey Future partnership continues to make excellent progress against the vision document's ambitions for the town. It has facilitated projects including the Romsey Cycle Hub, new cycle parking, town centre enhancements and a new tourism website.

Reverend Canon Tim Sledge, who has been leading Romsey Future's tourism work stream, said: "Throughout the Romsey Future consultation process, people have told us that Romsey could do more to attract visitors. Visit Romsey will do just that, and I am looking forward to launching the new website with Web-Feet in the near future."

Romsey Future has recently appointed Web-Feet to develop a new Visit Romsey website. This site will help to

attract more visitors to the town which will support existing businesses and attractions and help new ones to thrive.

Visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk/romseyfuture](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/romseyfuture) to find out more 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](mailto:romseyfuture@testvalley.gov.uk)

## BID TO MAKE TOWN MAKATON-FRIENDLY



Our staff have supported a bid to make Romsey a Makaton-friendly town by learning how to communicate using a language programme made up of signs and symbols.

At least ten of our staff have learned Makaton signs that make it easier to communicate with vulnerable members of the community. The programme consists of gestures that are used alongside the spoken word.

Civil Enforcement Officers and Customer Services Officers attended the training, which also included representatives from other public service bodies.

Hannah Anderson, representing Speaking Space which is spearheading the campaign, led the session and taught useful phrases such as *hello*, *take a seat*, *my name is* and *can I help?* She said:

**"If everyone could learn 30 signs and symbols, we can make such a difference to the lives of those who would otherwise be in isolation due to their difficulties in communicating and being understood. This initiative is creating opportunities for people to increase their confidence and independence. It's going to be life-changing."**

In order to become an accredited Makaton-friendly town, Romsey needs 30 organisations to sign up and pledge to learn 30 signs and symbols to help them to communicate. Anyone interested in finding out more should email [hannah@alexkelly.biz](mailto:hannah@alexkelly.biz) or search for **Makaton Friendly Romsey** on Facebook.

## COUNCIL'S ROMSEY OFFICE IS A SAFE PLACE

Our Romsey office has been designated as a **Safe Place**, where vulnerable people can trust that staff have committed to helping anyone feeling lost, scared or upset while out on their own. A Safe Place is a shop or business that has agreed to offer support if someone needs help as a result of vulnerability.

Our offices are located at the Former Magistrates' Court, Church Street, Romsey, SO51 8AQ

## A NEW WAY TO SKATE AND PLAY

New play equipment has been installed in Romsey's War Memorial Park to offer juniors a new way to climb, play and explore.

An exciting new climbing rope dome and wavy poles create the perfect environment for scrambling and playing.

Keen skaters and BMX riders have also been getting involved in plans to refurbish skate parks at Romsey Sports



Centre and Knightwood Leisure Centre. The surface at each site will change from metal ramps to concrete structures which are more rider-friendly.

Look out for details of skate jams in 2018 to officially open the parks.

NURSERY, PREP & SENIOR SCHOOL  
CO-ED, 2-18, DAY & BOARDING

**More than an education**  
[www.hampshirecs.org.uk](http://www.hampshirecs.org.uk)

Hampshire Collegiate School  
Embley Park, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 6ZE

Telephone: 01794 512206  
email: [info@hampshirecs.org.uk](mailto:info@hampshirecs.org.uk)

HS Embley Park  
Hampshire Collegiate School  
PART OF UNITED LEARNING



National Trust

## Mottisfont

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

Kaffe Fassett's Colour at Mottisfont  
Until 14 January 2018

All the Colours of Christmas  
25 November 2017 - 2 January 2018

Heath Robinson: More than a Gadget King  
20 January - 15 April 2018

Call 01794 340757 for details  
[nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont)



#nationaltrust

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.

© National Trust 2017. The National Trust is an independent registered charity, number 205846. Photography © National Trust Images/Simon Newman.



# WE REACHED THE FINALS!



We were thrilled to reach the final of the Local Authority of the Year category in the MJ Local Government Achievement Awards this summer.

There were 400 submissions in total for the 14 categories and we were the only district council to reach the final six in our category.

To reach the final, we demonstrated that councillors and senior management had a clear vision, strong plans for the future and evidence of successful service provision. We highlighted the way the authority is helping communities to develop through initiatives such as Romsey Future and Andover Vision, which have enabled councillors to engage better with local people.

Using innovative technology to enable residents to interact better with us was also central to the application.

Our entrepreneurial nature, which ensured we have a sound financial footing and were able to avert the need to reduce frontline services, also set the bid apart.

The judging panel said:

*“Test Valley’s submission demonstrated it is pushing the boundaries by going above and beyond in providing innovative, excellent services for its residents and businesses.”*

Our submission included examples of engaging with residents, investing in local communities and demonstrating how we have delivered on our promises. This success follows the news that we reached shortlisting stage in the LGC Awards in its Driving Efficiency Through Technology category earlier in the year.

# TEN YEARS OF GREEN FLAGS

Romsey War Memorial Park, Valley Park Woodlands Local Nature Reserve and Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve have again been recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme as amazing green spaces, thanks to the hard work of Test Valley Borough Council’s staff working within the local community.

For the parks to be awarded Green Flags, Countryside Officers must demonstrate proficiency in horticulture, expertise in ecology and evidence of working to the highest standards of health and safety. Each park or open space has a comprehensive management plan which includes routine tasks such as

tree inspections, play park checks and general maintenance, with long term plans for improvements.

The beautifully-kept Romsey War Memorial Park is celebrating a decade of consecutive Green Flags while Rooksbury Mill in Andover was awarded its ninth, and Valley Park its eighth.

## REDUCING HOMELESSNESS

Our Housing Options team prevented around 427 households from becoming homeless in 2016/17.

The team’s efforts have been recognised by the National Practitioner Support Service, which has awarded the authority the Silver Standard for preventing homelessness. The award sets 10 different ‘challenges’, with each one designed to help local authorities to deliver more efficient and cost-effective homelessness services.

Anyone who is looking for housing support can contact us on 01264 368000 or visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk).



Housing and Environmental Health Portfolio Holder, Councillor Phil Bundy, said: *“This award is a fantastic way to recognise the hard work that goes into preventing homelessness in the Borough. It is a credit to the staff who work with vulnerable people and those requiring emergency accommodation. I’d like to express my sincere gratitude to the team for making this recognition possible.”*

## PAWS FOR THOUGHT

The Borough’s four legged residents are helping us to celebrate winning the RSPCA Gold Stray Dog Footprint award.

Our Animal Welfare Officer promotes responsible dog ownership, including educating current and prospective dog

owners on best practice, collecting and arranging temporary care for stray dogs and carrying out home visits to assess potential dog re-homers. Look out for the ‘Don’t Use Your Fingers, Don’t Lose Your Fingers’ social media campaign which reminds anyone delivering leaflets to be careful when putting their fingers through letterboxes.

## FSB SMALL BUSINESS FRIENDLY AWARD



Our outstanding support to small businesses has been recognised by the Federation of Small Businesses again this year.

The Federation has cited the authority’s grants, networking opportunities, skills support and access to specialists as just some of the ways in which the Council has helped entrepreneurs and small business owners to launch their exciting new ventures.

We have won the award for six years, despite being up against strong competition from other Hampshire authorities.

# ROOKWOOD SCHOOL

Co-educational | Day & Boarding | 3-16 Years



A school with a “strong vision for providing excellent educational opportunities for all pupils” ISI

To arrange a private tour with our Headmaster contact Mrs V Ball on 01264 325900

Weyhill Road, Andover, Hampshire SP10 3AL  
[www.rookwoodschool.org](http://www.rookwoodschool.org)



## COMPUTER CAFÉS BRING IT SUPPORT



Computer cafés have opened in King's Somborne, Nursling and Rownhams and Ampfield to help residents learn more about using computers, laptops and tablets.

Volunteers across the parishes are offering personalised support on topics such as creating documents, online shopping and using email. The sessions have been hugely popular and seen many participants become more confident in using technology.

Residents are invited to bring their own devices or make use of the small number of laptops available at the sessions. People wishing to volunteer to help at the sessions are also invited to attend if they have basic IT knowledge.

- **King's Somborne Village Hall:** first and third Thursday of the month from 10am to 12pm
- **Nursling and Rownhams Village Hall:** second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 10am to 12pm
- **Ampfield Village Hall:** every Thursday from 9.30am to 11.30am

## SETTLING IN OVER WALLOP

The picturesque village of Over Wallop is now home to 35 new dwellings, including 14 affordable homes.

Among the affordable homes are four spacious bungalows, built to Life Time Home standard, which are particularly attractive to older residents and anyone with low mobility.

Housing and Environmental Health Portfolio Holder, Councillor Phil Bundy, said: *"The Landings is a fantastic development that helps local people to get on the property ladder – something that is notoriously difficult in the current economic climate. I am pleased to see that more young people are now able to settle in the areas in which many of them have lived all their lives and are of course, able to stay in Test Valley."*

The National Housing Federation recently announced that it had found strong support for new housing in rural England. Almost two-thirds (65%) of residents living in rural areas supported new homes in their area if they are affordable to local people on average incomes.



## FUNDING FOR RURAL BUSINESSES



Rural businesses in Test Valley can apply for funding from the Government's LEADER programme.

LEADER is designed to support rural businesses, including farmers and land owners, in new capital schemes that provide new jobs. To date, nine projects have been supported in Test Valley, including new visitor accommodation at Houghton Lodge, a new cow-milking system at Lamberts Dairy and renovations to a farm shop at Greenfield Pork in Anna Valley (pictured).

If you work for a rural business and are considering investing in a capital project, please find out more by visiting [www.ruralfunding.co.uk](http://www.ruralfunding.co.uk). Alternatively, email [Dawn.Hamblin@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Dawn.Hamblin@wiltshire.gov.uk) (North Wessex Downs, including Bourne Valley), [Emily.Preston@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Emily.Preston@hants.gov.uk) (central Test Valley) or [Sally.Igra@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:Sally.Igra@nfdc.gov.uk) (Southern Test Valley).

# YOU CAN ANDOVER ANYTHING

ANDOVER  
COLLEGE

100%  
A LEVEL  
PASS RATE

REGISTER NOW! [ANDOVER.AC.UK](http://ANDOVER.AC.UK)

## OPEN EVENINGS

15 NOVEMBER 2017  
8 FEBRUARY 2018



# WORK BEGINS ON LEISURE FACILITIES



At a time of austerity and budget cuts elsewhere, we are investing over £18 million in a major project as part of our long term plans for the future health and wellbeing of Test Valley residents.

We are excited about the provision of high quality leisure facilities for residents right across the borough. As well as a brand new, state of the art centre for Andover, there will be improvements to Romsey Rapids, Romsey Sports Centre, Knightwood Leisure

Centre and Charlton Lakeside Pavilion. Financially, the new contract is expected to bring significant net revenue benefit to the Council over the 30 year period and as such, will strengthen the Council's overall position in the medium and longer term.

## CHARLTON LAKESIDE

An exciting high ropes, low ropes and zip wire scheme has been proposed for Charlton Lakeside.

In addition, the café has been refurbished and work on the lake will begin shortly.

In the meantime, the golf courses and playground continue to be a valued attraction.



## ROMSEY RAPIDS

By the end of this year, the gym at Romsey Rapids will have a facelift, including new equipment, new kit and an improved layout. Next year will bring refurbished changing rooms, poolside ceiling, and reception area.

Improvements have already been made behind the scenes to the swimming pool's operational plant.

New group cycling bikes (pictured) have been installed and the studios will be redecorated and revamped in due course.



## KNIGHTWOOD LEISURE CENTRE



Currently, Knightwood Leisure Centre has a sports hall, two football pitches, a cricket square, basketball court, skating area, tennis courts, adventure playground, treatment rooms, a BMX track and a multipurpose area.

On 4 September, work began to refurbish and upgrade the centre to include a new gym. It is due to open by the end of the year.

During the refurbishment, a flexible meeting space has been created which can be used by local groups including the Knightwood Youth Club.

The football pitches have been excavated and new drainage installed ready for pitches to be in use early next year.

There are plans for a gymnastics club to be launched in the new year.

## KNIGHTWOOD PRE-SCHOOL

Children who used a small studio within the Knightwood Leisure Centre complex for their day nursery are now in their brand new bespoke home next to the site. There are activity spaces, a kitchen, offices and an outdoor play area.

The plans were fully funded by Test Valley Borough Council and supported by Hampshire County Council and Valley Park Parish Council as well as local parents.

This means there is increased capacity at the Knightwood leisure centre where a new state of the art gym is under construction, offering a more varied programme for local residents.



Carly Dorney and Catherine Botto are co-owners of Knightwood Pre-School. Carly said: "Catherine and I are really excited about our new building and we are very grateful to both Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council for supporting us." Catherine added: "We have lots of ideas and plans for the new academic year and this is a lovely environment to do this in."

The Pre-School opened at the end of September.



# ANDOVER LEISURE CENTRE



**The swimming pool and gym are being demolished and the site is being prepared for the new leisure centre in Andover.**

Parts of the centre will remain open throughout the disruption including the gym, studios and squash courts as well as Merlin's Kingdom.

We are sorry that people will experience disruption to their sport and leisure activities whilst the building work takes place, but we are doing everything we possibly can to minimise this. This includes ensuring that the centre will not be closed completely, phasing the different aspects of the building

programme, displacing activities to neighbouring facilities where possible and providing temporary swimming provision.

Places for People Leisure will also be investing around £40k into refreshing and rejuvenating the elements of the leisure centre which remain open. This includes new flooring outside of the studios, re-decoration of the studios, a revised entrance to the gym and ceiling works in Merlin's Kingdom.

The new Leisure Centre is scheduled to re-open in Spring 2019, followed by complete demolition of the remaining part of the centre containing the gyms.

You can keep up to date with all the news at [www.placesforpeopleleisure.org/centres/andover-leisure-centre](http://www.placesforpeopleleisure.org/centres/andover-leisure-centre)

## TEMPORARY POOL



**The contractor has delayed the opening of the 25 metre, four lane modular pool at Shepherds Spring Lane car park until 20 October.**

The pool has been designed and built by Total Swimming and will be managed by Places for People Leisure. It will remain in place until the new Andover Leisure Centre is open.

Managed by Places for People Leisure Ltd working in partnership with Test Valley Borough Council. #movemore

**Test Valley**  
Borough Council

**"Going the extra mile."**

**FREE 5 DAY PASS**

[www.placesforpeopleleisure.org](http://www.placesforpeopleleisure.org)

**Andover Leisure Centre** 01264 347100  
**Romsey Rapids Sports Complex** 01794 835550

Register online today for a free 5 day pass.

**Whatever place you're into**

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store  
Get the Places Locker fitness app

Managed by Places for People Leisure Ltd working in partnership with Test Valley Borough Council. #swimtime

**Test Valley**  
Borough Council

**"Just one more length."**

**Get Active, Get Swimming**

[www.placesforpeopleleisure.org](http://www.placesforpeopleleisure.org)

**Romsey Rapids Sports Complex** 01794 835550  
**Andover Leisure Centre** 01264 347100

Visit the website for Swimming timetables and lessons.

**Whatever place you're into**



## A GREAT PLACE TO WORK AND DO BUSINESS



Test Valley's employment rate is 6% above the national average, according to the Office of National Statistics.

New figures have revealed that more than 80% of 16 to 64 year olds in Test Valley are employed, compared to 74% across the UK.

And, in the five years from 2010 to 2015, the number of jobs in Test Valley grew by 9,200, or one fifth (19%), from 48,100 to 57,300, compared to the national growth of 7.3%. Among the 13 local authorities in Hampshire, this is the largest rate of growth for this period.

Test Valley is also ranked fourth in new business formation (2010-2016) in Hampshire. We have awarded 23 Independent Retailer Grants (pictured) since the scheme began in 2013 and 40 Business Incentive Grants to small businesses since the value of the grant rose to £750 in 2016. We have committed to presenting a minimum of 20 further Business Incentive Grants to local entrepreneurs by April 2018 and we welcome applications from anyone looking to set up their own organisation.

Economic Development and Tourism Portfolio Holder, Councillor David Drew said:

*"This latest set of figures shows that Test Valley continues to provide a healthy business environment that encourages new and existing businesses to invest and develop, which in turn provides more jobs."*

*"We have a high proportion of our labour force in employment and this looks set to continue as new businesses move onto business parks in Andover and Chilworth. Planning permission has been granted for a 484,000 square foot extension to Walworth Business Park, and the University of Southampton Science Park in Chilworth continues to attract global companies."*

## ANDOVER SKILLS TRAINING FUND

The Andover Skills Training Fund has helped more than 450 residents enhance their careers by funding qualifications in areas such as customer services and manual handling.

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

Phil Rawson, Managing Director of MRT Castings based at Walworth Business Park, said:

*"Over the past five years, MRT Castings have benefited several times from support from the Andover Skills Training Fund. Advanced engineering skills are essential for our business but they are increasingly hard to find in the labour market, so training to develop our existing workforce is essential."*



MRT Castings have benefited from the Andover Skills Training Fund

## NURSLING SKILLS FUND TAKES SHAPE

We are offering an exciting new opportunity for people living in Chilworth, Nursling and Rowhams to develop their skills, improve their employability or enhance their Continuous Professional Development record.

We have secured more than £56,000 from the Lidl regional distribution centre planning application to encourage local people to train in topics relevant to their area of work. Applications for work-related courses and qualifications can be applied for through the fund.

Visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk) for more details.

## RELIEF FOR BUSINESSES

Businesses in Test Valley may be able to benefit from three new Rates Reliefs.

We have been allocated £500,000 from a £300million national funding stream to support businesses that have seen increases in their rates bill from April 2017. Relief will be targeted at small and medium sized businesses that mainly operate in Test Valley.

In addition, the Pub Relief Scheme offers a £1,000 relief to all pubs with a rateable value of less than £100,000. Businesses that have lost small business or rural rate relief due to increases in the 2017 national revaluation exercise will have increases in their bill capped in line with a set formula.

We have already written to many eligible businesses with further information.

For more information please visit the Council's website, or email [businessrates@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:businessrates@testvalley.gov.uk)



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE @ [yellowdotnursery.co.uk](http://yellowdotnursery.co.uk)**

Interested in a career in childcare? We are recruiting

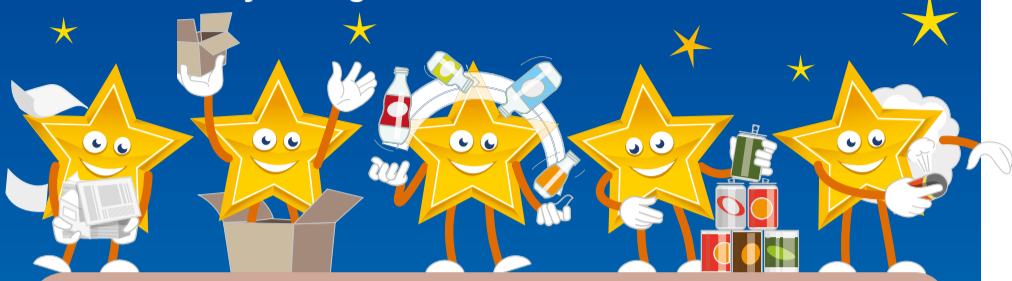
Apprentices • Level 3/4/5 • Early Years Teachers

**You need to love children and enjoy smiling!**



# FESTIVE RECYCLING

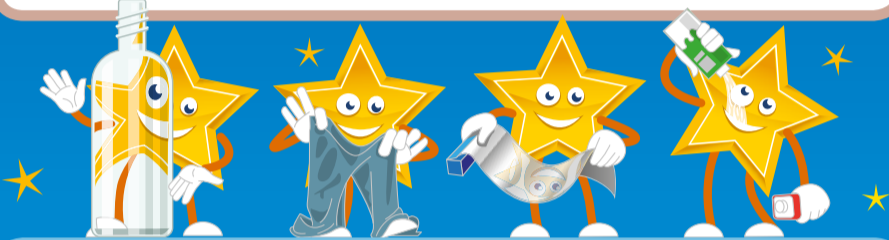
With all the parties, celebrations and shopping that take place during the Christmas and New Year period, lots more waste is produced. Here is our handy guide to recycling the right things with Test Valley during the festive season.



## BROWN BINS

Any of these items can be put in your brown bin...

- **Paper** such as envelopes, catalogues and brochures, but not gift wrap.
- **Cardboard** such as greetings cards, tubes and boxes.
- **Plastic bottles** such as fizzy drinks, sauces, cooking oils, cleaning products, shampoo and conditioner bottles.
- **Cans and tins** such as drinks cans and biscuit or sweet tins.
- **Aerosol cans** such as whipped cream, hairspray and deodorant.



## LOCAL RECYCLING CENTRES

Any of these items can be taken to your local recycling centre...

- **Glass bottles and jars** such as wines, cordials, mincemeat jars and cranberry sauce jars.
- **Textiles** such as last year's fashions.
- **Aluminium foil** such as mince pie cases, roasting trays and takeaway boxes.
- **Cartons** such as orange juice, custard, sauces and soups.
- **Books and media** such as CDs, DVDs and video tapes.

**Did you know?** All of the waste you put in your black household waste bin is burned to produce electricity.



# CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR BIN COLLECTION DATES

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday, 25 December 2017	Saturday, 23 December 2017
Tuesday, 26 December 2017	Wednesday, 27 December 2017
Wednesday, 27 December 2017	Thursday, 28 December 2017
Thursday, 28 December 2017	Friday, 29 December 2017
Friday, 29 December 2017	Saturday, 30 December 2017
Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday, 1 January 2018	Tuesday, 2 January 2018
Tuesday, 2 January 2018	Wednesday, 3 January 2018
Wednesday, 3 January 2018	Thursday, 4 January 2018
Thursday, 4 January 2018	Friday, 5 January 2018
Friday, 5 January 2018	Saturday, 6 January 2018

**Garden waste** collections will finish on **Friday, 22 December 2017** and will recommence from **Monday, 8 January 2018**

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Congratulations to Oscar from St Francis Church of England Primary School and Chloe from Amport Church of England Primary School who won our Recycling Stars drawing competition earlier this year.

The competition, which attracted more than 350 entries, asked entrants to design a poster that would encourage people to reduce their food waste. Oscar and Chloe's entries impressed the judging panel with their bold and colourful designs. The Recycling Star visited both children at their schools to unveil their artwork, which is displayed on the side of the waste collection vehicle that serves their local area.



For more information about Recycling Stars, visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk/recyclingstars](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/recyclingstars) and [www.facebook.com/recyclingstars](http://www.facebook.com/recyclingstars)

## FLY-TIP FOCUS

Due to Test Valley's rural nature, fly-tipping is often a problem in the Borough. It is unsightly and expensive to remove.



It is also a serious offence and the Council investigates every report it receives. Offenders can be fined up to **£50,000** and/or receive up to five years imprisonment. If you spot some fly-tipped waste, please report it to the Council using the My Test Valley app or by telephoning customer services on **01264 368000** or **01794 527700**.

Remember, if you arrange to have waste disposed of from your property, you have a duty to check that the company you are using is licenced. This includes companies trading on social media.

## MAKING TEST VALLEY SPARKLE

**Sparkle Days** add an extra bit of shine to areas across Test Valley and provide the perfect opportunity for people to find out more about waste and recycling.

During a Sparkle Day, our Environmental Services teams clean road signs, sweep roads and paths, cut grass and tidy shrubs. As they work their way around the area, they also distribute information about recycling to residents.

The Sparkle Days are part of our Love Where You Live initiative. If you'd like to request a Sparkle Day for your area, visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk/love](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/love) for details.



## LET THE LIGHTS ADD SPARKLE TO YOUR WINTER MONTHS!



The new season at **The Lights Theatre in Andover** will take you from those last days of autumn through to the dark cosy nights of winter and keep you entertained all the way.

Headlines through the autumn and winter months include a firm festival favourite, Holy Moly and the Crackers with their lively and eclectic music, and Luke Jermy with his mind blowing Sixth Sense show – he really can read your mind!

The venue also sees a welcome return from favourites including Oas-is, Michael Portillo, The Rat Pack, Jethro, The Blues Band and Moscow Drug Club.

As if this wasn't enough, there is also a packed programme of seasonal shows throughout December and January, guaranteed to get both children and adults in the festive spirit. The Christmas classic, The Nutcracker will be performed by the Vienna Festival Ballet, while the children's favourite Santa Show is back with an adventure with Dasher the Reindeer and Pom-Pom the penguin for 2-7 year olds.

Visit [www.thelights.org.uk](http://www.thelights.org.uk) for more information.

## GET CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WRAPPED UP EARLY

This year's **Wrapped Up** event at **The Lights Arena café bar** will take place on **Sunday, 3 December from 10am to 3pm, and entry is free.**

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

Indulge yourself or choose presents for others from the wide range of cakes, chocolates, jewellery, crafts,

decorations, books, glassware and beverages; including gorgeous gins and wine tasting experiences on offer.

There will be free face painting and an activity table will keep the little ones amused. Festive food and drink will be on sale in the café to keep energy levels from flagging.

It is the perfect opportunity to get ahead with the Christmas shopping without the High Street hassle!

## SAVE THE DATE!

Look out for fantastic deals and unmissable offers in **Andover** and **Romsey** during **Small Business Saturday** on **2 December 2017**

## FREE car parking for one hour

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

## GET READY TO SWITCH ON CHRISTMAS!



The nights are drawing in and that can only mean one thing... our annual **Christmas Lights Switch-on event on Friday, 17 November in Andover High Street from 5pm to 7.30pm.**

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

Father Christmas will be stopping by, and the stage will play host to a range of local performers. The Breeze will compère the evening, and there will be

rides and attractions, children's face painting and lots of delicious food to keep you warm.

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

Test Valley Borough Council manages the event and the Christmas tree and lights are provided by Andover Town Council.

Make a date in your diary – Friday, 17 November from 5pm to 7.30pm in Andover High Street, and start the countdown to Christmas!

# FREE Christmas PARKING VOUCHER

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

**Valid in Test Valley Borough Council car parks\* in Andover and Romsey.**

**Valid on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4 to 20 December.**

Display this voucher on your dashboard alongside your pay and display ticket. Add one hour to the time on your ticket to calculate your return time.

**\*Valid with cash or Ringo payments only.**



Test Valley Borough Council

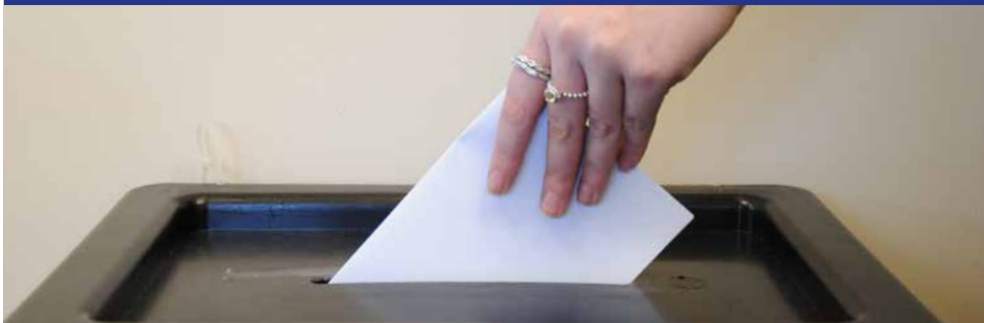
@TestValleyBC

TestValleyBC

[www.testvalley.gov.uk](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk)



## ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?



With the European Union Referendum in 2016 and an unexpected General Election earlier this year, recent events have proved the importance of registering to vote and having your say.

If you are not registered, you cannot vote and your voice will not be heard. Not being on the Electoral Register can also affect your credit rating.

Everyone aged 16 or over is responsible for registering themselves, although you cannot vote until you are 18.

To register, visit [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

If you do not have access to the internet or you require support, you can contact us for assistance. As part of your application, you will need to provide your national insurance number and date of birth, along with some other details.

We wrote to all households over the summer to ask them to confirm whether

the information held on the register about their property was correct, and to advise them on what they needed to do should there be any changes to that information. A response is required to this form and residents can do this over the phone, online or by returning the form in the supplied pre-paid reply envelope. Details of the different ways in which a response can be made are provided on the covering letter accompanying the form.

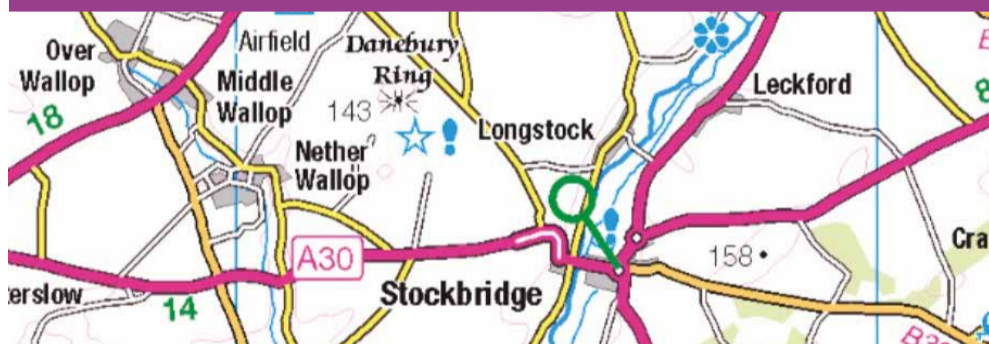
Residents are encouraged to respond to that form as soon as possible if they have not already done so.

If you're not sure if you're registered, please contact us to find out. If you aren't registered, you can do this online or we will send you the forms you need.

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

Our Electoral Services team can be contacted on **01264 368000** or by emailing [elecereg@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:elecereg@testvalley.gov.uk). To find out more about the registration system, visit [www.gov.uk/voting-in-the-uk](http://www.gov.uk/voting-in-the-uk)

## NEW WARD PATTERN FOR TEST VALLEY



The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published its final recommendations for a new pattern of Test Valley Borough Council's electoral wards.

'Ward' is the term used to describe a geographical area whose residents are represented by one or more elected Borough Councillors. The new wards have been produced following two rounds of consultation, to which local residents and county, borough and parish councillors submitted proposals.

The new pattern of wards accommodates 43 councillors. In drawing up the wards, the Commission has aimed to deliver electoral equality for voters in council elections so that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters. They have also sought to ensure the new wards reflect, as far as possible, the interests and identities of communities across Test Valley.

The recommendations for the new wards will now be laid in Parliament, and will come into effect for the local elections in May 2019.

Details of the new ward boundaries can be found at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## CLADDING CHECK

Following the Grenfell Tower disaster, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) asked local authorities and Housing Associations to firstly identify all high rise residential buildings that use aluminium cladding materials (ACM), and then submit samples for testing.

In Test Valley, there are no high rise residential buildings that meet the DCLG definition. However, the Government has since requested that local authorities conduct similar checks on all residential buildings that contain either ACM cladding or other cladding systems which have failed combustibility tests, irrespective of whether they are high rise.

If you believe that your property might contain these materials, please contact us on **01264 368000**.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Turning off lights in your home when you are not using them could **save £14 per year**
- Switching appliances off at the plug could **save £30 per year**
- Switching to LED lights could **save £35 per year**
- Spending one minute less in the shower each day will save up to **£7 per year per person**

For details of grants available for insulation and other energy efficiency improvements, phone the Hitting the Cold Spots team on **0800 804 8601** or email our Private Housing team at [phousing@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:phousing@testvalley.gov.uk)



Stroud School, Romsey

Highwood House, Highwood Lane,  
Romsey SO51 9ZH  
01794 513231  
[registrar@stroud-kes.org.uk](mailto:registrar@stroud-kes.org.uk)  
[www.stroud-kes.org.uk](http://www.stroud-kes.org.uk)

Co-educational Independent School for Ages 3-13

HONESTY



RESPECT



HAPPINESS



COME AND SEE WHAT STROUD CAN OFFER YOUR CHILD

- Preparatory school for King Edward VI Southampton
- Small class sizes
- Preparation for 11+ and 13+
- 22 acres of outdoor learning including sports fields, woodland forest, school farm and adventure play area

Stroud provides an "education of the highest quality"

ISI Report



# 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](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/events)

## The Lights, Andover

Sixth Sense: Luke Jermy	24 October, 7.45pm
Jeremy Hardy Live 2017	25 October, 8pm
Crafty's Creepy Castle	27 October, 2pm
Blues Night with Dan Sowerby	27 October, 8pm
Supersonic 70s Show	28 October, 7.45pm
Wuthering Heights	1 November, 7.30pm
Oas-is	3 November, 8pm
Michael Portillo	4 November, 7.30pm
Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde <b>SOLD OUT</b>	7 November, 7.30pm
Paul Chowdhry: Live Innit <b>SOLD OUT</b>	8 November, 8pm
The Summer of Love	9 November, 7.45pm
The Rat Pack	10 November, 7.45pm
The FB Pocket Orchestra	11 November, 8pm
Hans Rey	22 November, 7.30pm
Holy Moly and the Crackers	24 November, 8pm
The Ugly Duckling	25 November, 1.30pm
Rich Hall Hoedown <b>SOLD OUT</b>	25 November, 8pm
Jethro <b>SOLD OUT</b>	30 November, 7.30pm
The Best of Queen	1 December, 8pm
The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus	6 to 9 December, 10.30am
80s Party Night	8 December, 7.30pm
Swinging into Christmas	9 December, 7.45pm
Singalonga Beauty and the Beast	10 December, 2pm and 7pm
Christmas Memories	14 December, 2pm
Abba Forever	15 December, 7.45pm
The Nutcracker	16 December, 2pm and 7pm
Sounds of the Sirens	21 December, 8pm
Barry Steele and Friends - Roy Orbison Christmas Special	22 December, 7.30pm
Santa's Christmas Wish	23 December, 10.30am and 1.30pm

## The Plaza, Romsey

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street	17 to 21 October, 7.30pm
The Wit and Songs of Noel Coward	22 October, 7.30pm
The Dreamboys UK Tour 2017	24 to 25 October, 7.30pm
Pop-Up Bowie	27 October, 7.30pm
Hay Fever	14 to 18 November, 7.30pm
Yes Tribute Show	19 November, 7.30pm
Joanna Forest - Stars Are Rising	21 November, 7.30pm
Feeling Good - The Michael Bubl� Tribute Show	24 November, 7.30pm
The Memory of Water	5 to 9 December, 7.30pm
Christmas Concert	11 to 12 December, 7.30pm
A Christmas Carol – Reboot	13 December, 7.30pm
Aladdin (pantomime)	Various dates throughout January 2018

## Parks and countryside

<b>Tree thinning</b>	
Crusaders Way Balancing Pond	22 October, 10am to 12pm
<b>Hedge thinning</b>	
Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve	11 November, 10am to 2pm
<b>Meadow maintenance</b>	
Tadburn Meadows Local Nature Reserve	19 November, 10am to 12pm
<b>Coppicing</b>	
Tredgoulds Copse, Valley Park Woodlands	19 November, 10am to 12pm
<b>Scrub clearance</b>	
Swattons Fields	26 November, 10am to 2pm
<b>Lake bank enhancements</b>	
Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve	9 December, 10am to 2pm
<b>Ride management</b>	
Zionhill West, Valley Park Woodlands	10 December, 10am to 12pm

## Events information

For events at The Lights book online at [www.thelights.org.uk](http://www.thelights.org.uk) or contact the box office on 01264 368368.  
For events at The Plaza, please call the booking office on 01794 512987.  
For countryside events please check [www.testvalley.gov.uk](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk) as these may be subject to change or for more information contact the Countryside Officers on 01264 368000.

# Council meetings

## 23 October to 22 December

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](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk) for up to date information.

October 2017			
25.10.17	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Andover	5.30pm
26.10.17	Northern Area Planning Committee	Andover	5.30pm
31.10.17	Southern Area Planning Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
November 2017			
07.11.17	Planning Control Committee	Andover	5.30pm
08.11.17	Council	Andover Guildhall	4.00pm
14.11.17	Licensing Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
15.11.17	Cabinet	Romsey	5.30pm
16.11.17	Northern Area Planning Committee	Andover	5.30pm
21.11.17	Southern Area Planning Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
22.11.17	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
28.11.17	Planning Control Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
December 2017			
07.12.17	Northern Area Planning Committee	Andover	5.30pm
12.12.17	Southern Area Planning Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
13.12.17	Cabinet	Romsey	5.30pm
14.12.17	Licensing Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
19.12.17	Planning Control Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
20.12.17	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Romsey	5.30pm

## For your information

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

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

**Editor:** Avril MacDonald. **Design:** Cammegh Davies Fleming. **Printing:** Mortons.

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

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

## Who to contact



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

<b>Chief Executive</b>	Roger Tetstall
<b>Corporate Director</b>	Andy Ferrier
<b>Corporate Director</b>	Carol Moore
<b>Head of Legal and Democratic Services</b>	Karen Dunn
<b>Head of Estates and Economic Development</b>	Simon Ellis
<b>Head of Finance Services</b>	William Fullbrook
<b>Head of IT Services</b>	Tony Fawcett
<b>Acting Head of Revenues (Local Taxation and Project Enterprise)</b>	Carl Whatley
<b>Acting Head of Revenues (Benefits and Customer Services)</b>	Janice Broomfield
<b>Head of Housing and Environmental Health Services</b>	Phil Turner (From 30 October)
<b>Head of Community and Leisure Services</b>	Dave Tasker
<b>Head of Planning and Building Services</b>	Paul Jackson
<b>Head of Environmental Services</b>	Paul Wykes
<b>Head of Planning Policy</b>	Graham Smith