



Test Valley News

In this issue...

Fly-tipping Success
Council Top Dog Five Years Running

2
3

Awards For Three Council Parks
Get Christmas Wrapped Up

4
10

A CENTURY SINCE THE END OF WW1



PAYING OUR RESPECTS TO THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

Test Valley Borough Council and a number of local organisations are supporting projects and events to help the borough pay its respects as we mark the centenary of the end of World War One.

Plans are in place up and down Test Valley to honour those made, and continue to make, the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

As part of those plans, remembrance Day commemoration events in Andover, Romsey and Stockbridge will also see 'Tommy' silhouettes displayed, which will pose as a striking reminder of the lives lost during World War One between 1914 and 1918.

In Romsey, commemorations will take place from October 26 until November 14, on top of the traditional Service of Remembrance in the War Memorial Park at 11am on November 11.

One of the ways the Council is supporting Remembrance Day plans is in Andover where a £650 Councillor Community Grant has been given to the local branch of The Royal British Legion.

Millway councillors selected the Andover branch of the Royal British Legion to be awarded the funds.

On top of helping towards the cost of the Tommy silhouettes, the money will also contribute to the cost of a band for the day.

The Councillor Community Grant scheme helps to fund community-led initiatives, and allocates funds to projects following feedback and ideas from residents.

Romsey Cupernham Ward Councillor Dorothy Baverstock said:

"A number of events are being held across Romsey as we seek to pay our respects in the most fitting way to those who fought for our tomorrow, giving their today."

"Our War Memorial Park will again host a respectful tribute, as we thank the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom."

Millway Councillor Sandra Hawke said:

"Test Valley Borough Council is keen to help commemorate those who lost their lives fighting for our freedom."

"This year is a particularly poignant Remembrance Day as it marks the centenary of the end of World War One, and I'm delighted to be able to award the Royal British Legion this funding to help with plans for this November."

Andover Events

St Mary's Church

November 11, 10am

A public service will first begin at 10am inside the church, followed by a 45-minute ceremony in the public garden to pay respect from 10.45am.

Romsey Events

Romsey School

November 2, 7pm

Dr Emily Mayhew, from Imperial College London, will give a talk titled 'Wounded – The Long Journey Home from The Great War'. Tickets can be purchased from Romsey Visitors Centre.

Romsey War Memorial Park

November 11, 11am

An act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, followed by a march through into Market Place.

Romsey Abbey

November 14, 7.30pm

The Abbey will welcome internationally acclaimed Mezzo Soprano Patricia Hammond, who will join the Romsey Male Voice Choir and students from Romsey School in paying their respects.



Councillors Jim Neal and Sandra Hawke present the cheque to chairman of the Andover Royal British Legion, Duncan Powell

ROLLING OUT ULTRA-FAST BROADBAND



Hundreds of Test Valley village homes are benefitting after the first phase of a new ultra-fast broadband scheme.

As part of the Test Valley Virtual Town project, 640 homes now have access to the speeds, which means a standard high definition film can be downloaded in less than two minutes.

Residents can now access speeds of up to 362 Mbps, compared to the previous average of 5Mbps, courtesy of Virgin Media's rollout scheme.

Leader of Test Valley Borough Council, Phil North, joined Virgin Media in Chilbolton to give their first customer the VIP treatment and find out just how

big a difference it is making in their everyday life.

Twelve villages in the Test and Dun Valley will benefit from the scheme. For more information, contact Virgin Media on **0333 000 5925** (option 1).

Councillor Phil North, said:

"Access to superfast broadband for Hampshire homes and businesses is an important contributor to economic prosperity. The work of the Test Valley community and Virgin Media is very welcome indeed, demonstrating what can be achieved by residents working collaboratively to find effective broadband solutions in 'hard to reach' areas."

FLY-TIP FOCUS IT'S 'BIN' A SUCCESS!

The Council has stepped up its enforcement against fly-tippers across Test Valley with a succession of prosecutions over the summer.

Almost £14,000 in fines and prosecution costs have been ordered through the courts between June and September. Last month, a man was found guilty of fly-tipping a large number of leaflets in Nursling after action from Test Valley Borough Council, and ordered to pay £4,016.

In total, those prosecuted have been ordered to pay £13,976. Offenders can receive up to five years in prison for the offence, or a fine of up to £50,000.

More than one million incidents of fly-tipping were dealt with by councils in England over the course of 2016 and 2017, which cost taxpayers a combined £58m to clear up.

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.

Any incidents of fly tipping can be reported on: www.testvalley.gov.uk/mytestvalley, or by calling Customer Services on **01264 368000** or **01794 527700**. The Council has a zero-tolerance approach to fly tipping and all reports are investigated and will be taken through to prosecution generally if there is sufficient evidence.

Environmental Portfolio Holder, Councillor Graham Stallard, said: **"We are committed to investigating every single fly-tip in the borough, whether large or small, and we will find those responsible."**

"I would strongly urge people to think twice before committing this crime, as they may find themselves in court lumbered with a very hefty fine, or even a prison sentence."

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

Test Valley Borough Council is asking residents for their views on proposed changes to its Council Tax Reduction scheme for 2019/20.

Following the rollout of Universal Credit, which has brought together a number of different benefits including Job Seeker's Allowance and Housing Benefit, the authority is reviewing how its Council Tax Reduction scheme works. This is because the continued rollout of Universal Credit with its rolling reassessment of entitlement means that many Council Tax Reduction applicants receive multiple Council Tax demands each year and the cost of financing the current scheme is becoming unsustainable. Any changes will affect working age households that currently receive Council Tax Reduction or apply for it in future. Anyone of pensionable age will not be affected.

The Council has also committed to protecting its most vulnerable residents from any changes and those receiving the 'support' component of Employment Support Allowance (ESA) or the 'limited capability for work' element of Universal Credit will not be affected by any cap implemented as a result of changes to the scheme.

The options the Council is consulting on are:

- To apply a cap on financial support so that Council Tax payers would pay a minimum of 10, 15 or 20 per cent of their Council Tax
- To set a minimum tolerance level so that unless a change in the applicant's circumstances would mean an increase or decrease in support of £30 per week, no change

would be made at that time

- To increase the minimum weekly Council Tax Reduction award from 50p to £1.

The Council will be sending a copy of the consultation to all those currently in receipt of Council Tax support and likely to be affected by the proposed changes. The consultation is also available online at www.testvalley.gov.uk/consultations/council-tax-support-consultation. The Council will also invite Council Tax payers and local partners, groups and organisations to submit a response.

The consultation will end on 12 November 2018. Any changes will come into effect from 1 April 2019.

Finance Portfolio Holder, Councillor Peter Giddings, said:

"The impact of Universal Credit has made the current scheme incredibly confusing for applicants. It has also caused a significant increase in the administration that has to be undertaken by the council. We are now in a position where we need to consult with residents on the options available to us to help determine a way forward."

"However, it is absolutely vital that we continue to protect our most vulnerable residents from any proposed changes to the scheme, which is why those in receipt in certain elements of ESA or Universal Credit will not be affected by a cap."



Harrow Way Community School

Specialist School in Maths & Computing

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

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

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

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

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



Animal Welfare Officer Rod Mason with his dogs Rolly, right, and Stanley.

COUNCIL TOP DOG FOR FIVE YEARS RUNNING

Two top prizes have been awarded to Test Valley Borough Council by the RSPCA for its continuous dedication to animal welfare work.

National charity, the RSPCA, has awarded the council a Gold Stray Dog Footprint, which it has now held for five years running.

As a result of this, and the fact that the RSPCA PawPrints awards are now in their tenth year, a special Platinum Stray Dogs Footprint has been awarded to Test Valley Borough Council.

The awards celebrate animal welfare work from local authorities and other organisations, such as housing providers.

A Gold award is the highest category achievable.

Animal Welfare Officer at Test Valley Borough Council, Rod Mason, said: *"I know that everyone is thrilled*

with this achievement, and I'm pleased that our hard work has been recognised by the RSPCA.

"What this shows, having won a Gold Stray Dog Footprint for five years in a row, is that we haven't stopped trying to improve our welfare services for animals. For us, this is just the latest step, rather than our end goal!"

The national awards were first set up by the charity in 2008.

Housing and Environmental Health Portfolio Holder, Councillor Phil Bundy, said: *"It's wonderful to be recognised for all the effort we put in to continue our high standards of animal welfare across Test Valley.*

"It's important for us to continue our work and make sure we are in the same place next year. From everyone at Test Valley Borough Council, a huge thank you to the RSPCA."

The PawPrints Winners Reception and tenth anniversary celebration is to be held on November 27 at Parliament Square, London.

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A DECADE OF GREEN FLAGS

Three Test Valley Borough Council parks have been recognised for an international award.

Romsey War Memorial Park, Valley Park Woodlands Local Nature Reserve and Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve have been recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme as amazing green spaces, thanks to the hard work of Test Valley Borough Council's dedicated staff, and the continued support of volunteer groups.

It also marks a decade of continual achievement for Romsey War Memorial Park. The latest recognition means it has been awarded the Green

Flag for ten years running. Rooksbury Mill in Andover has been recognised with the award nine times, and Valley Park eight times.

The international award is a sign to the public that the spaces boast the highest possible environmental standards, as well as being beautifully maintained. Visitors also enjoy excellent facilities across all three spaces.

Each park or open space has a comprehensive management plan which includes tree inspections, play park checks and general maintenance, along with long-term plans to further enhance the areas even in future.



Romsey War Memorial Park achieves a decade of Green Flag Awards

SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS AT FISHLAKE MEADOWS



Leader of Test Valley Borough Council, Councillor Phil North and Chief Executive of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Debbie Tann. Photo: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT)

A number of significant improvements have been made to Fishlake Meadows Nature Reserve in Romsey – including a £25,000 boost for flood defences.

As well as making the existing pathways safer and easier to access with new surfaces, an extra route to the centre of the reserve has been created. This path leads to a series of raised viewing points offering breathtaking views into the southern lakes. An extra viewing point has also been constructed off the canal tow path.

On top of that, the Council has added £25,000 to aid the speed of flood defence work being carried out by the Environment Agency.

The work will revamp the sluices that help to divert water between man-made

channels flowing through the town centre and another channel that takes the water back to its watercourse.

In September, rare British White cattle were also introduced to Ashley Meadows to help maintain the herb-rich fen habitat. Volunteers are also continuing to play a vital role in the practical management and monitoring of Fishlake Meadows.

Fishlake Meadows is owned by Test Valley Borough Council, and managed by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.



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Knightwood Leisure Centre - 02380 276254

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

ADDING A BIT OF SPARKLE TO TEST VALLEY



Sparkle Days are fantastic for helping those areas in Test Valley that need a little love, to shine.

During a Sparkle Day, our Environmental Service teams wash road signs and street furniture, sweep

roads and paths and cut grass and tidy shrubs. They also distribute information to residents to help them recycle more and waste less.

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 for details.

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF SOUTH OF THE TOWN CENTRE



Together with ideas from the local community, stakeholders and residents, Test Valley Borough Council has helped to formulate a strategic vision for Romsey.

Romsey Future has many visions, one of which is to see a healthy town centre that meets the needs of residents and their expectations for the future. One way to achieve this vision is to consider how land south of the town centre, including the bus station and Crosfield Hall site, could be redeveloped.

The partnership began consulting with local residents and visitors in September this year to create a masterplan for the area south of the

town centre, which will be consulted upon in early 2019. This plan will then be used to help create a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which will showcase the community's aspirations for the area to potential developers.

Councillor Nick Adams-King, chair of Romsey Future said:

"This is an exciting opportunity to enhance and re-shape Romsey town centre. We start with no preconceptions at all. We want to engage with everyone who uses the town centre to find out their ideas on how we can make Romsey Town Centre the best it can be."

ANDOVER VISION

It's been a busy year for Andover Vision, with a range of projects being delivered for the town.

The vision partnership continues to grow, with almost 50 organisations and businesses now formally signed up to the Vision and committed to making Andover a great place to live, work and visit. Stakeholders continue to meet regularly with the aim of progressing projects, from small quick-to-deliver schemes such as art work installations, to large scale projects such as Town Mill Riverside.

The inaugural Andover Cycling Festival took place in July, with more than 200 participants cycling four routes from five miles for families, to a 65-mile challenge around Test Valley. The event, managed by Halo Sports, was a great success and another event is planned for July 2019. Next year's event will be bigger and better, with the addition of exciting elite races in the centre of Andover. Outdoor gym equipment was installed in four locations, which are the Charlton Sports Centre, Augusta Park, Watermills Park

and Picket Twenty, giving free access to gym equipment. The outdoor gyms have been a big hit with residents with positive feedback from all of the sites.

The Andover Vision team and stakeholders have been involved in events over the summer, including the Four Fun Fridays and the Andover Carnival, as well as supporting events such as The Shilling Fair, Business Fair and International Day of Peace. The Vision team will be joining the fun at the Christmas Lights Switch On event on 16 November and more events are planned for the new year.

Andover Vision couldn't exist without the support of the residents, businesses, voluntary and statutory organisations that take part as stakeholders, so a big thank you to everyone that gets involved. Anyone interested in joining a working group or even leading on a project, can get in touch with the Andover Vision team by emailing andovervision@testvalley.gov.uk. You can also visit the Andover Vision website to find out more or follow us on Facebook.

MAKING SURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD NEXT SPRING

Test Valley Borough Council elections are taking place in May 2019, and you must register in order to vote and ensure your voice is heard wherever you live in the borough.

Everyone aged over 16-years-old is responsible for registering themselves, but you cannot vote in the election until you are 18.

If you are not registered, you will not be able to vote on the day, and not being on the Electoral Register can also affect your credit rating.

To register, visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

We wrote to every household over the summer months to ask them to confirm whether the information held on the register about their property was correct, and advise them on what they needed to do should there be any changes.


It is really important that people

respond to this form, and this can be done over the phone, online, or using the pre-paid reply envelope through the post.

Details of the ways the form can be returned are provided on the covering letter with the form itself.

If you haven't already responded to the form, we would encourage you to do so as soon as possible. If you are not sure whether or not 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.



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

A NEW LOCAL PLAN

Test Valley Borough Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the borough which will look ahead to 2036 and beyond.

In order to do this, we must collect up-to-date information about our residents and the people that work within Test Valley.

We are now considering how best to reflect the responses received after a consultation on what

communities think the key planning issues are in the borough for the next 20 years.

This will all be considered when preparing a full draft plan for consultation later in 2019, specifically what options we have to meet those challenges that have been highlighted. We are also updating the evidence we need to best understand local development needs. Look out for future updates on our website and social media.



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For more information go to: www.yellowdotnursery.co.uk/careers/index.cfm



ANDOVER LEISURE CENTRE AND ROMSEY RAPIDS UPDATE



Both Andover Leisure Centre and Romsey Rapids will open in their entirety to the public in spring next year.

More than £1.5 million is being invested into upgrades at Romsey Rapids Sports Complex, which will see the 'wet side' changing village completely revamped.

The health suite refurbishment will also include a new sauna, steam room and the creation of a new relaxation area and waiting areas for treatment rooms.

Places for People Leisure, which runs the complex, is also taking the opportunity to undertake works in the pool hall during the closure to maximise the delivery of refurbishment and maintenance works.

This follows on from the recent gym and studio works at Romsey Rapids.

The quietest time of year has been chosen to close off the pool areas of the complex, with the brand new facilities ready to be enjoyed by February half-term, having closed after October half-term. Members can use the new

Places Leisure Eastleigh facility to avoid missing out, as well as the River Park Leisure Centre in Winchester.

Progress is also continuing in the construction of the new Andover Leisure Centre. Set to open in April, work is being undertaken in the pools, and the sports hall.

Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder, Councillor Tony Ward, said:

"Our residents deserve access to high quality leisure facilities, so I welcome the much-needed improvements to the pool hall, health suite and wet side changing rooms in Romsey Rapids."

"Though we regret the disruption the closure will cause, we hope that customers will be pleased with the enhancements and the long-term benefits they will deliver."

BACKING BUSINESS IN THE BOROUGH

The Council has been recognised for its committed effort to support small businesses up and down the borough.

As part of the aim to continue making Test Valley an attractive place to both live and work, this summer has seen thousands of pounds awarded to a number of growing businesses.

Last month, Test Valley Borough Council scooped a 'highly commended' in the Best All Round Small Business Friendly Council category.

It comes as the council seeks to back new and aspiring ventures ranging from hairdressers to those who help the elderly and vulnerable with everyday DIY tasks.

As well as giving out £4,000 through Business Incentive Grants and Independent Retailer Grants, the Council has also been recognised across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight for its work supporting smaller companies throughout Test Valley.

Test Valley has seen one of the highest rates in business growth in Hampshire over the course of the past seven years, with 1,170 new businesses launched in the area between 2010 and 2017.

The Council's Business Incentive Grants are available to anyone looking to set up their own business in Test Valley. Anyone who successfully

applies for the grant will receive £750 if their business is still going strong six months later.

Recipients of the £1,000 Independent Retailer Grant are awarded £500 after three months of trading and a further £500 after nine months. 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 cafes.

Portfolio Holder for Estates and Economic Development, Councillor David Drew said:

"We support local businesses in a variety of ways, including through grants and accessing specialist advice and guidance. Ensuring the borough is a great place to work and do business is one of the Council's main priorities."

"To date, we have awarded almost £100,000 in Independent Retailer Grants and Business Incentive Grants, helping around 600 businesses in the area. In addition, the Andover Skills Training Fund has helped to upskill almost 500 different individuals in 145 businesses by contributing towards their training costs."

"I am passionate about our businesses and the Council will continue to do everything possible to help them flourish and thrive."

Below are just some of the businesses which benefitted from Test Valley Borough Council grants this summer:

BUSINESS NAME	OWNER OF BUSINESS	GRANT AWARDED
Little Country Lane	Stephanie Cripps	£750
Just 4 Kids	Sharon Liquorish	£500
Akwaaba Barbershop	Prince Kwabena Sackey	£500
DF Mobility	Daniel Frendo	£750
Dave's Home Help	Dave Kane	£750
Lively Fox	Ella Ridley	£750

SIGNPOSTS

The arch to the entrance of Waterloo Court from Bridge Street has been installed, directing shoppers to businesses off the main town centre.

So far, five arches have been installed to attract visitors into the narrow lanes,

which are George Yard, Union Street, Globe Yard, Waterloo Court - Chantry Centre and Waterloo Court - Bridge Street. The last three arches are being worked on, with Kings Yard due to be installed soon, followed by Shaw's Walk and Black Swan Yard.

22-30 Bridge Street,
Andover,
SP10 1BN

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RETRO ARCADE

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THINKING OF RENTING OUT YOUR HOME?

If you are a landlord, or thinking of becoming one, Test Valley Borough Council can provide you with a free, professional service to source tenants and help you in a range of practical ways to ensure that every tenancy is a success.

The Council works with people looking for medium and long term lets and has successfully supported hundreds of households to move into the private rented sector, preventing homelessness and supporting private sector landlord's businesses.



If you are interested in this free service, please contact our housing team using our dedicated 'Landlord Hotline' on **01264 368611** or by email to lettings@testvalley.gov.uk.

For more information about how the Council's Rent Deposit Scheme may be able to assist you, please visit the Test Valley Borough Council website: www.testvalley.gov.uk/RDLS

ATTENTION PRIVATE LANDLORDS NEW LICENSING RULES FOR HMOS

The Government has made a number of changes over rules for houses in multiple occupation (HMOS) as of October 1 2018.

The Government is extending the scope of mandatory HMO licensing, which means that it now applies to HMOS which are occupied by at least

five people in two or more households, regardless of the number of storeys.

This includes any building or converted flat where householders share basic amenities such as a toilet, personal washing facilities, or cooking area. It may also apply to purpose built flats in small blocks.

For more information, visit www.testvalley.gov.uk or contact the Private Sector Housing team on **01264 368000**.

ISSUES WITH TENANCY AGREEMENTS

If you are thinking about serving notice to your tenant and aren't sure of how to do this, the Council is here to help save you time and hassle.

If the tenancy is no longer sustainable, we may be able to assist your tenant to move on to alternative accommodation, providing targeted advice to help people help themselves.

Call the Council's 'Landlord Hotline' on **01264 368611** and talk to us about the problems you're experiencing. Alternatively, email us at lettings@testvalley.gov.uk.

BUILDING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Hundreds of new houses are being delivered by Test Valley Borough Council in Nursling, together with Radian and Bloor Homes.

As a partnership, Fen Meadow, off Redbridge Lane, will see 326 high-quality homes, of which 130 will be affordable. Half of those 130 houses will be rentals, and the other half will be shared ownership. They will comprise

of two, three and four-bedroomed properties.

The first affordable homes in the development have already been completed, and the remainder of the affordable housing will be completed in phases throughout the rest of 2018. It is anticipated that the whole site will be completed by July 2020.

For more information, visit www.radian.co.uk or contact **0800 145 6663**.

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOUR HOUSING SITUATION?

There are many reasons why people need advice and assistance regarding their housing circumstances.

These could include financial problems, family or relationship breakdown, overcrowding, poor conditions and homelessness to name just a few.

The Council's Housing Options Team is here to provide advice and guidance for anyone in Test Valley who needs help with a housing related problem. We can assist you regardless of whether you

own all or part of your home, live with family or friends, rent privately, live in tied accommodation, or rent from a local housing association.

We offer an approachable, understanding and confidential service. We also provide advice and support for landlords.

A walk-in advice service is available Monday to Friday, from 9am to 12 and 2pm to 4pm at our offices at Beech Hurst, Andover and the Former Magistrates' Court in Romsey. You can also call us on **01264 368000** or **01794 527700**.



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www.rookwoodschool.org

COUNCIL CONTINUES CAMPAIGN TO TACKLE HOMELESSNESS

The authority is issuing advice to residents and shoppers in a bid to reduce the number of people giving money directly to those begging as this has the potential to exacerbate the problem.

The authority is issuing advice to residents and shoppers in a bid to reduce the number of people giving money directly to those begging as this has the potential to exacerbate the problem.

Housing and Environmental Health Portfolio Holder, Councillor Phil Bundy, said: ***“We are absolutely committed to tackling homelessness and continue to focus our resources on addressing and preventing the problem. Last year the council’s housing team prevented 427 households from becoming homeless.***

“Rough sleeping is a complex issue and one that requires a variety of local agencies to work closely together to offer support to those in need. Unfortunately, the generosity and goodwill of members of the public can hamper efforts being made by local agencies to persuade people to move off the streets and come inside. Giving money directly to rough sleepers can sustain and prolong the problem and make them less likely to accept help from the local agencies, which has consequences for both their physical and mental health.

“It is important to note that not all forms of street activity, such as begging and drinking, equate to homelessness and many of these individuals have very complex

issues. It is therefore vital that they have access to the right services, which is why people may wish to consider supporting local charities, such as Two Saints, Alabare and Andover Foodbank, that work directly with homeless people and those with substance abuse issues.”

The average age of mortality for rough sleepers in England has been estimated at 43 years, almost half the UK life expectancy. Earlier this year, the authority launched a new pilot to coincide with the commencement of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. The pilot includes additional investment to support the Council and its partners to prevent and relieve homelessness, and a commitment that, wherever possible, no individual who presents themselves as homeless will have to leave the council offices and sleep rough without first being made an offer of accommodation. For those living on the street, support and assistance is available to provide accommodation.

Councillor Bundy, added: ***“We want to reassure residents that we do all we can to help those who are sleeping rough as well as those at risk of ending up on the street. I would urge anyone who is worried about their housing situation to contact the Council’s housing team as soon as possible as there are measures we can put in place to help prevent homelessness.”***

Residents can report rough sleepers via the national StreetLink service at www.streetlink.org.uk

WORKING TOGETHER TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

Air quality is something that can affect us all, with the government having identified air pollution as one of the biggest threats to public health.

Equally, it is something that we can all influence, sometimes by making small changes in our lives.

The way we travel can make a difference, for example where possible consider walking, cycling, using public transport or lift sharing. There are also many ways to drive smarter to reduce the amount of fuel we use, including turning off the engine when stationary for more than a minute or two. If purchasing a new vehicle, emissions

levels could be a factor to consider. You could also consider a petrol, hybrid, plug-in hybrid or electric vehicle.

The way we heat our homes can also be a source of air pollution and there may be ways to reduce this. It is important to service heating systems regularly, as well as ensuring that open fires and wood burning stoves are used responsibly, for example, by using the right fuels.

We routinely monitor the air quality in Test Valley and publish an annual report. Information about monitoring of air quality in Test Valley can be found on the Council’s website:

www.testvalley.gov.uk

ROMSEY HITS MARK TO BECOME FIRST MAKATON-FRIENDLY TOWN



Romsey is now the world’s first Makaton-friendly town after more than 30 organisations learned a number of sign language symbols to help communicate with vulnerable members of the community.

More than ten members of staff at Test Valley Borough Council, who supported Romsey’s bid, have studied the language. Those staff

members can now sign more than 30 words to help them communicate.

Civil Enforcement Officers and Customer Services Officers at the Council attended training for the language. Many more organisations continue to sign up, including Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, after staff at Romsey Fire Station took part.

Earlier this year, the historic market town hit the required number of businesses and community groups needed to be named as the first Makaton-friendly town.



National Trust

Mottisfont

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

The Mottisfont Open Exhibition 2018

- until 11 November

Harvest Time

- throughout October

The Night Before Christmas

- 24 November - 6 January

Call 01794 340757 for details
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.

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INCORPORATING YOUR VIEWS



More than 2,000 residents' views are currently being considered as the Council helps to shape the future of Test Valley.

Following a consultation over the summer, viewpoints are being taken into account for the next Corporate Plan, which determines the aims and ambitions between 2019 – 2023.

The consultation closed in September, and the Council is now considering feedback alongside statistical information, existing strategies and Government policy to determine its priorities.

Leader of Test Valley Borough Council, Councillor Phil North, said: **“Some of our achievements over the past four years include constructing a brand new leisure centre in Andover and improving the existing facilities in Romsey and Knightwood, enabling our residents to gain greater access to the countryside such as Fishlake Meadows; and developing the Andover Vision and Romsey Future initiatives with the local community.**

“In addition, we have supported local businesses through a variety of grants and exceeded our targets in providing new affordable homes.”

The current Corporate Plan, Investing in Test Valley, comes to an end in April 2019.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED

Boundary changes within Test Valley have been given the green light by the Council.

After two rounds of public consultation, the changes to parish arrangements were given the go-ahead by councillors in September.

The community governance review looked at whether any changes should be made to individual parish arrangements. The review considered a number of issues, including whether to create a new parish altogether, or alter the boundary of an existing parish. The purpose of the review was to help ensure that arrangements in place are both convenient and effective, as well as better reflecting the needs of local communities.

The Council embarked on two rounds of consultations to give local communities the opportunity to have their say. The first round took place between November 2017 and January 2018, and the feedback from this led to the first set of draft recommendations.

These then formed the subject matter of the second round of consultation

between May and July. A group of Test Valley Borough Councillors considered all representations received and made a series of recommendations which were approved at Full Council in September.

Some of the changes involve transferring Augusta Park and Burghclere Down to Andover Town, though smaller changes have also been agreed for a number of other areas across the entire borough. Some issues require approval from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) before the changes come into place.

Corporate Portfolio Holder, Councillor Maureen Flood, said: **“I would like to thank everyone who took their time to submit their feedback during the public consultation on the proposals. I would also like to thank all of the councillors and officers who have undertaken a huge amount of work to get us to where we are now. I am pleased that we are in a position to submit our recommendations to the LGBCE and look forward to their response.”**

The final recommendations are available to view in full at: www.testvalley.gov.uk/cgr. The new arrangements will come into force at the local elections scheduled for May 2019, subject to approval from LGBCE.

COUNCIL BACKS CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL PUPPY BREEDERS

Test Valley Borough Council has thrown its support behind new tighter Government regulations in a bid to stop illegal dog breeding and selling.

A major overhaul in regulations began at the start of October, meaning those who are selling pets commercially, breeding puppies or training animals for exhibition, all now need to be licenced.

The new legislation means anyone running one of these activities will require a licence from Test Valley Borough Council to reflect that those necessary standards are being met.

Rod Mason, Animal Welfare Officer at Test Valley Borough Council, said: **“I am very pleased that these new regulations have been introduced. Now that the licences will be more rigorous with the standards of care people must reach for their animals, I’m certain it will help to catch out those who think they can illegally breed and sell.”**

The new standards include demonstrating staff have sufficient knowledge to meet their animals’ needs, provide a suitable housing environment, and a suitable diet.

They also need to keep the animals

healthy and have emergency procedures in place among other criteria.

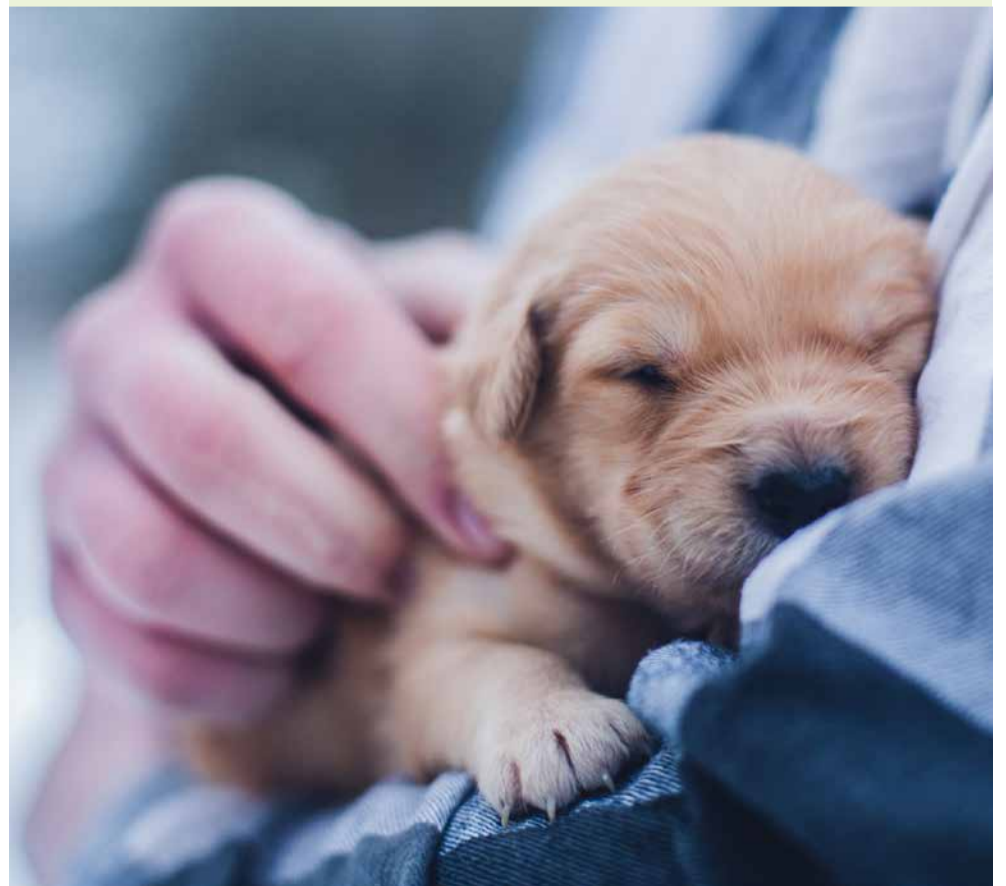
Housing and Environmental Health Portfolio Holder, Councillor Phil Bundy, said: **“Not only will these new regulations help to catch illegal breeders, but I’m delighted that they will also go a long way towards providing a healthier and happier environment for animals.**

“Of course the vast majority of those who breed, train, or keep animals in other capacities abide by the law, but this will help us to crack down on that minority who don’t believe they have to.”

Breeders in the borough producing three or more litters of puppies, or making more than £1,000 from puppy sales in a year, will now need a licence from the Council.

National animal welfare charity, the RSPCA, received 162 calls from members of the public regarding Hampshire puppy farms in 2017. Nationally, there were 4,224 calls from the public raising concerns.

RSPCA Deputy Chief Executive Chris Wainwright said: **“This is the biggest overhaul of animal welfare legislation in England since the Animal Welfare Act was introduced over a decade ago and we’re extremely pleased that these steps are being taken to better protect animals.”**



Regulations also say that no puppies, cats or rabbits can be sold when under eight-weeks-old. All breeders must also keep a record of every dog they sell, and are recommended to use a puppy contract.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF WORKING FOR THE COUNCIL?



The Council employs approximately 500 staff and offers a fantastic range of job opportunities in different services.

The variety of responsibilities and challenges means that every day is different, working with residents and councillors to make a real difference to communities around Test Valley.

With investment in staff development and a friendly and professional working

environment, the Council can offer a very rewarding career.

Apprenticeships can also be a great way to develop skills and learn on the job, gaining a qualification while receiving a salary. Apprentices have a mentor and work alongside experienced colleagues while also studying for a relevant NVQ. They are also involved in working with other apprentices on smaller projects, developing skills in communication, project management and presentation.

For more information on why the Council is a great place to work, visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/jobs

GET CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WRAPPED UP EARLY AT THE LIGHTS FOOD AND GIFT FAIR



This year's **Wrapped Up** event at **The Lights** will take place on **Sunday, 9 December** from **10am to 3pm**, and **entry is free**.

All of 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, beverages - including delicious gins and beer, jewellery, crafts, handbags, scarves, Christmas decorations and cards, books and glassware on offer.

There will be free face painting and an activity table to keep children amused, and festive food and drink will be on sale in the café to keep energy levels high.

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

RECYCLING: KEEPING IT SIMPLE!

Recycling in Test Valley is simple! Every home can put a number of items into their brown recycling bin.

BBC documentary Blue Planet II helped to motivate people to care about plastics in a way they never have before, and tackling the plastic problem is now firmly on the national agenda. We are a nation of recyclers, with more of us knowing how much it matters, and that we can all make a huge difference. With Christmas just around the corner, here is a handy guide to recycling the right things with Test Valley during the festive season.

Did you know?

All of the waste you put in your black household waste bin is burned to produce electricity

Everybody can do their part for the planet by putting the following in their recycling bin:

- Paper - such as junk mail, envelopes and catalogues.
- Cardboard - such as greetings cards, tubes and boxes.
- Plastic bottles - such as fizzy drinks, cooking oils, cleaning products, shampoo and conditioner bottles.
- Cans and tins - such as drinks cans and food tins.
- Aerosol cans - such as hairspray and deodorant.

Did you know?

In 2016/17 only 5.17 per cent of waste was landfilled in Hampshire

...and you can recycle even more at your local recycling centre:

- Glass bottles and jars
- Textiles and shoes
- Aluminium foil
- Food and drink cartons
- Books and media



GET READY TO SWITCH ON CHRISTMAS!

The nights are drawing in and that means the annual Christmas Lights Switch-on event in Andover is happening very soon!

Visit Andover High Street on **Friday, 16 November from 5pm to 7.30pm** for a festive evening brought to you by Test Valley Borough Council and kindly sponsored by BasePoint.

The evening will consist of music and entertainment to accompany the switching on of the town's Christmas lights, as well as a grand firework

display sponsored by The Chantry Centre.

Father Christmas will be stopping by, and the stage will play host to a range of performers including Vigo School Choir, Jayne Deer, Stagecoach Andover and Kate Stevens. Andover Radio will host the evening, and there will be rides and attractions, children's face painting and lots of delicious food to keep you warm.

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!



This event is brought to you by Test Valley Borough Council, and sponsored by BasePoint. The Christmas tree and lights are provided by Andover Town Council. It will be a bumper weekend as the Andover Artisan Market will also take place on Sunday, 18 November – perfect to stock up on Christmas goodies.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR BIN COLLECTION DATES

Normal collection day - Brown bin	Revised collection day - Brown bin
Monday 24 December 2018	Saturday 22 December 2018
Tuesday 25 December 2018	Monday 24 December 2018
Wednesday 26 December 2018	Thursday 27 December 2018
Friday 28 December 2018	Saturday 29 December 2018
Normal collection day - Black bin	Revised collection day - Black bin
Monday 31 December 2018	Monday 31 December 2018
Tuesday 1 January 2019	Wednesday 2 January 2019
Wednesday 2 January 2019	Thursday 3 January 2019
Thursday 3 January 2019	Friday 4 January 2019
Friday 4 January 2019	Saturday 5 January 2019

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.

LET THE LIGHTS WARM UP YOUR WINTER!

The autumn-winter season at The Lights Theatre in Andover will take you from those last lazy days of summer through to the cosy nights of winter, keeping you entertained all the way!

Headlines through the autumn and winter months include Ralph McTell, one of the greatest musical storytellers, Hello Again – Neil Diamond, and first visits from G2 Definitive Genesis and Cream of Clapton.

The venue also sees a welcome return from favourites including Tenors UnLimited – joined by the Andover Ladies Choir, Think Floyd, Sound of the Sirens and comedians Hal Cruttenden and Stephen K Amos.

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 enchanting love story, Beauty and the Beast will be presented by Ballet Theatre UK and The Pantaloons are back with A Christmas Carol. Neil Sands and his West End cast will perform a matinee of Christmas Memories, and Oddsocks are back in January with Robin Hood and the Revolting Peasants!

Following last year's sell-out performances, Santa is back with his Christmas Party on 22 December – a great way for little ones to start the countdown to Christmas.

The listings extend through until the end of January, so pick up a brochure, settle down with a cup of delicious artisan coffee in the venue's Arena Café and enjoy browsing the full range of entertainment on offer, live and local at The Lights.

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 3 to 19 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 RingGo payments only.**



Test Valley
Borough Council

 @TestValleyBC

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www.testvalley.gov.uk

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.

Shows at a Glance at The Lights

The Lights, Andover

Coppelia	1 November, 7pm
Money for Nothing	2 November, 7.45pm
The Milk Men	3 November, 8pm
Jane Eyre	13 November, 7.30pm
Ninebarrow	14 November, 8pm
Torn Off Strips	16 November, 8pm
Hey Diddle Diddle	17 November, 11am
Ralph McTell	17 November, 7.30pm
Tony Stockwell	19 November, 7.30pm
Coldplace	24 November, 8pm
Shakespeare Schools Festival	27 November, 7pm
Hal Cruttenden	28 November, 8pm
Tenors Un Limited	30 November, 7.30pm
Hello Again – Neil Diamond	1 December, 7.45pm
Sound of the Sirens	6 December, 8pm
Bye Bye Baby	7 December, 7.45pm
The Phonics	14 December, 8pm
Beauty and the Beast	15 December, 2pm and 7pm
A Christmas Carol – The Pantaloons	17 and 18 December, 7.30pm
Christmas Memories	19 December, 2pm
Buddy Holly at Christmas	20 December, 7.30pm
Santa's Christmas Party	22 December, 10.30am and 1.30pm

The Plaza, Romsey

Bully Beef and Whizzbangs	3 November, 7.30pm
Life of Riley	13 to 17 November, 7.30pm
Romsey Ghost Walk to the Three Tuns	14 November, 7.30pm
I'm Still Standing – A Tribute To Elton	24 November, 7.30pm
En Masse Pop Rock Choir	25 November, 7pm
E Minor Pop Academy Winter Show	1 December, 3pm and 7pm
Constellations	5 to 8 December, 7.30pm
The Sound of Christmas	10 to 11 December, 7.30pm

Parks and countryside

Hedge Laying, Rooksbury Mill Meet at Barlows Lane car park	4 November, 10am to 2pm
Hedge Laying, Rooksbury Mill Meet at Barlows Lane car park	17 November, 10am to 2pm
Bulb Planting, Valley Park Woodlands Meet at Blenheim Close Play Area	18 November, 10am to 12 noon
Hedge Laying, Rooksbury Mill Meet at Barlows Lane car park	2 December, 10am to 2pm
Woodland Ride Management, Valley Park Woodlands Meet at Barlows Lane car park	9 December, 10am to 12 noon

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**.

Council meetings

6 November to 20 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 for up to date information.

November 2018

6.11.18	Planning Control Committee	Andover	5.30pm
7.11.18	General Purposes Committee	Andover	4.00pm
7.11.18	Cabinet	Andover	5.30pm
14.11.18	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Andover	5.30pm
15.11.18	Northern Area Planning Committee	Andover	5.30pm
20.11.18	Southern Area Planning Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
21.11.18	Council	Romsey	4.00pm
22.11.18	Licensing Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
27.11.18	Planning Control Committee	Romsey	5.30pm

December 2018

5.12.18	Cabinet	Romsey	5.30pm
6.12.18	Northern Area Planning Committee	Andover	5.30pm
11.12.18	Southern Area Planning Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
12.12.18	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
18.12.18	Planning Control Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
20.12.18	Licensing Committee	Romsey	5.30pm

For your information

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

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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**.

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