



Test Valley News

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PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF ANDOVER

More than 2,600 residents, visitors and businesses have taken part in a survey designed to help shape the future of Andover.

Back in April, the council purchased the Chantry Centre and five further properties, meaning the authority now owns a significant area of land in the centre of the town.

The authority issued a tender for the project to redevelop Andover and appointed nationally renowned urban design experts, HemingwayDesign and NEW Masterplanning. In September, they launched an initial survey asking for feedback on how, when and why people use, and want to use, the town centre to draw feedback from.

With the survey closing at the start of October, the masterplanners are now using that feedback to inform their plans to draw up a blueprint for how best to completely redevelop the area.



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

"We have in front of us a once in a generation opportunity to shape the town and we must do everything we can to grab it with both hands."

"Rejuvenating our town centres is the council's number one priority and your views will help inform our ambitious plans for the redevelopment, creating a place where people want to visit, live and spend time. This certainly won't be the only chance for people to give us their feedback, but, with the first phase now complete, it marks the start of a comprehensive consultation process and I would urge people to get involved as much as possible along the way."

Wayne Hemingway, of HemingwayDesign, added:

"Between us all we are capable of coming up with ideas and plans that will help Andover town centre to be a vibrant focal point of communities for generations to come."

The masterplan process will take around 12 months to complete and will involve significant consultation with the public to decide what the future of Andover will look like. Once the masterplan is in place, the council is likely to appoint a developer partner to start delivering changes in the town.

ROMSEY RESIDENTS SET TO TACKLE TOWN CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT QUESTION

Residents are set to come together next month to look at the proposed redevelopment of the area south of Romsey town centre.

Fifty local residents will be chosen at random to form a citizen assembly to explore how to improve the area around Crosfield Hall and the bus station to deliver the maximum benefit to Romsey. Their recommendations will be incorporated into a masterplan for the area.

Test Valley Borough Council, in association with Romsey Future, is one

of three organisations across the country chosen to take part in a national pilot to trial citizen assemblies.

Letters were sent out to 10,000 households on September 30 inviting people to register their interest. Around 50 people are now in the process of being chosen to take part in the assembly, which will take place in Romsey over the weekends of November 9 and 10 and November 23 and 24.

The assembly will be given key facts, figures and statistics as well as evidence from subject matter experts and community representatives.

They will then consider all of the evidence and make a recommendation to the Romsey Future Partnership and Test Valley Borough Council to help shape a major planning document for the area which will set out what they want to achieve and guide developers.

The council has been granted £60k to trial the assemblies and will receive support from a number of consultant organisations including the Democratic Society, the Royal Society of Arts, My Society and Involve.

The programme, run by the Department for Digital Culture Media and Sport and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, will see the council explore the role that groups of Test Valley residents can contribute to big issues

facing the council. The authority was selected due to its track record of seeking to transform democracy locally through projects and initiatives such as Romsey Future and Andover Vision.

Romsey Future chair, Councillor Nick Adams-King, said: *"It is brilliant that we are about to embark on this pioneering work in Romsey to test the water for citizens' assemblies. We have heard through our Romsey Future consultations that people are passionate about improving the south of the town centre. The citizens' assembly will give residents a real opportunity to play a pivotal role in the next stage of consultation which will determine how the redevelopment of this area will look."*



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CONTACTLESS PARKING PAYMENTS COMING TO BOROUGH

Shoppers and visitors will be able to tap to pay for their parking at car parks across Test Valley after the council's cabinet agreed to replace all of the authority's payment machines with contactless systems.

Council chiefs approved the proposal in June to replace all of the cash-only pay and display ticket machines with ones that accept debit and credit cards, smartphone payments and coins, too.

Planning portfolio holder and deputy leader, councillor Nick Adams-King, said: *“This major change will make it easier for people to visit our town centres and shop locally. The ability to pay by credit and debit card or other contactless methods is now part of people's everyday lives.”*

Romsey town centre manager, Mark Edgerley, said: *“We live in a society where people are so used to using their cards and smartphones to make payments and we have a responsibility to respond to this and adapt accordingly for the benefit of our town centres and the convenience of shoppers and visitors alike. I very much welcome this.”*



RingGo will also continue to be offered in all council car parks. The two machines in the Chantry Centre, Andover, which enable people to click in and then pay on exit using a debit or credit card will also remain in place.

LOOKING OUT FOR OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Do you, or someone you know, have a care or support need?

A new service has been launched in Hampshire to help people who want to look after their health and wellbeing and to maintain their independence for longer. The website service, 'Connect to Support Hampshire', helps to signpost residents to the right source of help or support by breaking down services specific to residents of Test Valley.

The website, www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk, has an advice section, a community directory and a directory of care homes in the county. To find out more, visit the website or download through the App Store or Google Play Store.

GRANTS HELP TO FUND PROJECTS AROUND THE BOROUGH

Since spring, a number of businesses, community groups and local associations have benefitted from almost £150,000 worth of funding from Test Valley Borough Council.

Through Business Incentive Grants for new businesses and the Community Asset Fund for organisations including schools, hospices and village committees, the council has awarded £146,000 since spring this year.

Some of those to benefit are North Baddesley Infant School, which received £25,000, the Countess of Brecknock Hospice which also received £25,000 and a further £6,500 was also given to Wellow Village Hall Committee.

COUNCIL LEADS THE PACK FOR SIXTH YEAR RUNNING

Test Valley Borough Council has scooped the top award from the RSPCA for the sixth year running in recognition of its continuous dedication to animal welfare.

The authority has picked up the Gold Stray Dogs Award as part of the RSPCA's PawPrints Awards 2019.

The awards celebrate outstanding animal welfare work from local authorities and other organisations, such as housing providers. A gold award is the highest category achievable.

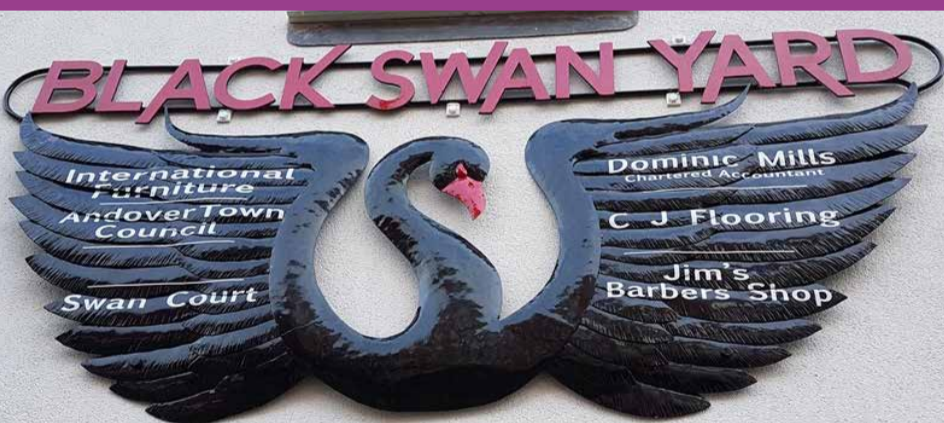


Animal welfare officer at Test Valley Borough Council, Rod Mason (pictured), said: **"It is absolutely amazing that we have achieved the gold award for the sixth year in a row and I am incredibly grateful to the RSPCA for their support."**

"We are passionate about our work to enhance and protect animal welfare and I am really pleased and proud that this has been recognised on a national level."

Portfolio holder for housing and environmental health, Councillor Phil Bundy, said: **"It is fantastic that we have received this award, which reflects the unwavering commitment from the council and its staff to maintain the highest standards of animal welfare in the borough."**

NEW DESIGN TO SIGNPOST SHOPPERS IN TOWN



Andover has a new arch to help signpost shoppers in the town.

The decorative arch for Black Swan Yard was designed and installed by renowned artist Peter Clutterbuck and is part of a series of installations that direct shoppers to the smaller businesses located off the High Street.

The idea to enhance signage came from feedback from the Andover Summit, which aimed to rejuvenate the town centre and increase footfall, and this work now continues through the renewed Andover Vision.

Peter said: **"It's fantastic to see another addition up in the centre of Andover. We have worked really hard to try to create something that residents and businesses can be proud of."**

Leader Phil North added: **"As part of our aim to ensure the town centre is as attractive a destination as possible, I'm really pleased with the latest addition."**

Plans remain to install the final two arches at King's Yard and Shaw's Walk.



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CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARED IN TEST VALLEY



Test Valley Borough Council has declared a climate emergency as it steps up its fight to tackle climate change.

Leader of the council, councillor Phil North, put forward the motion at a full council meeting in Romsey last month. Having gained the approval of councillors and receiving cross-party support, the authority has already begun plans to set out how it can eliminate its carbon footprint.

The authority has implemented a number of changes in recent years in a bid to become more environmentally sustainable, including installing LED lighting and solar panels at its Portway depot, growing its fleet of electric vehicles and, this autumn, progressing with plans to install 18 electric vehicle charging points in Andover and Romsey.

Councillor Phil North said: *“It was fantastic to see a number of members of the public not only in vocal support of the motion, but actually speaking to councillors, too. This is a vital issue that I am passionate and committed to. I would encourage people to contact me with any ideas they may have as to how we can tackle this.”*

“We are now focused on drawing together an action plan to eliminate our carbon footprint as soon as possible, and, with cross-party support, this can be done before the government target of 2050.”

Liberal Democrat leader, councillor Celia Dowden, added: *“We need everyone to contribute and evaluate their choices as we aim to bring about change on a national scale. Everything counts as we step up, united, in the national fight.”*

The council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee will now draw together a plan by April for how the authority can eliminate its carbon footprint.

TAXI DRIVER PROSECUTED FOR NO-SHOW RECORDS

A taxi driver licensed in Test Valley has been ordered to pay almost £2,000 following a prosecution by the council.

Allan Richardson, of Andover, was asked to produce his records of the bookings he had taken, but failed to do so, which breached the conditions of

his licence.

Drivers of private hire vehicles are required to keep records and they also have to prove all journeys have been pre-booked to ensure the safety of passengers. Mr Richardson failed to produce the records when requested by the council.

He was found guilty in his absence in court and was fined £450, ordered to pay a £45 victim surcharge and £1,500 in costs.

PUSHING ON WITH PLANS TO PREVENT AND RELIEVE HOMELESSNESS

Two new staff members have joined the council as it continues to find new ways to tackle homelessness.

A new landlord liaison officer and a tenant liaison officer are now supporting the housing service, working with property owners, their agents, and renters to help each tenancy succeed.

The council has launched a new FREE ‘social lettings agency’ service, “Test Valley Lettings”, helping to find suitable landlords and match them with vetted tenants. This match-making service is supported by incentives and advice to help tenancy agreements succeed, to fill vacant properties, and, where needed, to ensure tenancies end amicably.

In addition to its constant efforts to

prevent and relieve homelessness over the winter months, the council will also continue to provide its severe weather provision with special arrangements in place when temperatures are set to fall below zero.

Should this be forecast for a minimum of three consecutive nights, these arrangements help those living on the street. Anyone can access Two Saint’s Direct Access Hostel in Andover who will provide emergency bed and food provision and The Bridge, Andover, also has a night drop-in service from 7pm until 10pm, providing hot meals and washing facilities as well as wider support for those affected by homelessness between December and February.

CRACKING DOWN ON ILLEGAL WASTE ACROSS THE BOROUGH



Almost 20 people have been prosecuted for fly-tipping, littering and licence offences since the start of the year.

The council has a zero-tolerance approach to fly-tipping and has continued to press on with prosecutions over the summer.

More than £11,000 has been ordered by the courts in fines and costs for those guilty of illegally dumping their waste, throwing their litter or operating without a licence.

In August, 59-year-old Albert Bowers was ordered to pay more than £600 after he was found to have been operating around Andover without a waste carrier licence.

In July, Jason Smallbone, of Popley, was prosecuted after he threw the end of his cigarette in Weyhill Gardens, Andover last December. After being issued with a penalty notice, Mr Smallbone did not pay and was ordered to pay more than £400 as a result.

That followed a £200 fine in June for

Robyn Toon, of Andover, after she illegally disposed of a dishwasher, carpets and a child’s bicycle at Goddard Square.

All waste carriers are licensed through the Environment Agency, where you can check whether the carrier you are using has the correct licence and documentation.

Environmental portfolio holder, councillor Alison Johnston, said: *“I would really encourage residents to check their waste carrier has the correct licence and to get a waste transfer note. As we have said time and time again, your waste is your responsibility and if it is found later dumped illegally, it will be your door we are knocking on, so you must ensure you take the necessary steps.”*

“We investigate every single report of a fly-tip that comes through to us, so my advice to those thinking they can get away with this crime, is to very strongly think again.”

Any incidents of fly-tipping can be reported via www.testvalley.gov.uk/mytestvalley or on 01264 368000 or 01794 527700.

COUNCIL SIGNS UP TO MENTAL HEALTH PLEDGE



Test Valley Borough Council has demonstrated its commitment to tackling mental health stigma in the workplace by signing up to a national scheme.

The 'Time to Change' employer pledge is run by charities Mind and Rethink Mental Illness, and was signed by the council's chief executive, Roger Tetstall, together with leader, councillor Phil North earlier this summer.

By signing the pledge, a wellbeing group has been formed which includes staff from various areas of the council to promote mental health care and wellbeing. As part of the pledge, the wellbeing group has also developed an action plan outlining what TVBC will do to further promote mental wellbeing.

In June, guest speaker David Beeny visited the council's Andover offices and spoke about his mental health awareness campaign 'breaking the silence', which is also aimed at de-stigmatising mental health at work.

Chief executive of TVBC, Roger Tetstall, said: *"Tackling the stigma that surrounds mental health is vitally important. It is imperative that the council is an enjoyable place to work, because that makes for a high performing organisation which is better able to serve our residents."*

"A lot has been done over recent years to try to break down various walls and staff have worked incredibly hard to develop a variety of ideas and initiatives. I'm looking forward to seeing the progress from the wellbeing groups and those involved deserve a huge amount of credit."

Leader, councillor Phil North, added: *"Mental health in the workplace and in everyday life is so crucial and therefore I'm delighted that the council has signed up to this fantastic initiative. I'm sure this is just the beginning as we take this next step to support staff and showcase how important an issue this is."*

AMAZING GREEN SPACE AWARDS FOR THREE BOROUGH PARKS



Three of the council's parks have scooped up an international award for another year!

Romsey War Memorial Park, Valley Park Woodlands Local Nature Reserve and Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve have all been recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme as amazing green spaces.

It marks the 11th year that Romsey's War Memorial Park has achieved this recognition following the hard work of the council's staff and the support of many volunteer groups.

Rooksbury Mill, in Andover, has now been recognised with the award for the tenth time and Valley Park nine 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 a number of excellent facilities across all three spaces.

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

Community and leisure portfolio holder, councillor Tony Ward, said: *"The dedication of all staff at the council towards ensuring these parks and spaces are loved by their communities is what makes these awards possible."*

"It really is amazing to realise that these parks have now been awarded international recognition for 30 years combined. We know from our research across the borough that access to green space is something our residents value the most, so to see these spaces reach internationally-recognised heights yet again is fantastic."

International Green Flag Award scheme manager Paul Todd, said: *"It's fantastic that we have more Green Flag Awards in the UK than ever before, joined this year by 132 international winners."*

"Each flag honours the thousands of staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to maintain the high standards demanded by the Green Flag Award. We congratulate each and every winner on their fantastic achievement."

The international award is now into its third decade and spans 13 other countries.

MARKING THE SACRIFICES MADE IN WORLD WAR TWO

Next year will mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

While a day of reflection and gratitude for the sacrifices made by hundreds of thousands of people, there will also be a number of events to mark and

celebrate the occasion. The May bank holiday has been moved to Friday 8 May as a national holiday to mark this important anniversary. Street parties are likely to be held across the borough to bring people together, share stories and food, and be a part of the national celebrations.

You can contact the borough council's community team regarding how to organise an event via **01264 368000**.

PLAN ADOPTED TO CARE FOR AREA OF OUTSTANDING BEAUTY

A management plan that will help to look after an area of outstanding natural beauty to the north of Andover has been adopted by Test Valley Borough Council.

A revised North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan has been updated to cover the next five years. Designated as an AONB in 1972, this protected landscape is

the third largest area of its kind in England and covers a significant area of Test Valley.

At a cabinet meeting in June, councillors voted to approve the management plan which all local authorities within the area are required to adopt. It has been prepared jointly through the Council of Partners group for the AONB and runs from 2019 until 2024.

AN UPDATE FROM ROMSEY FUTURE



As the partnership presses on with helping to draw up a masterplan for the area south of the town centre, Romsey Future has also been busy helping to improve the environment over the summer.

Romsey Future has been leading the charge in bringing a refill project to Romsey, helping to reduce single-use plastic to the town (see page 9 for more).

On top of this, the partnership has drawn up a new walking and cycling map to explore all the town has to offer. From newer areas of the town through to the historic centre all the way down to the A27 travelling to Southampton, the map promotes new, environmentally friendly ways of exploring the town.

It also helps to identify cycle parking, shared walking and cycling paths and where links will be provided in the future. Copies can be accessed via the council's offices on Church Street, Crosfield Hall and the Visitor Information Centre.

Romsey Future's community transport lead, councillor Janet Burnage, said:

"We want to encourage the public to come and enjoy our town and explore all the sights it has to offer. This map is just a small step in a bigger project to connect our communities via sustainable travel links."

The partnership also held a consultation event with Abbotswood residents in a bid to learn about what can be gained from the new development going forward.

Throughout, plans to help draw up a masterplan for the south of the town centre push on, with the second stage of consultation process now underway until later in November.

For more information, visit www.romseyfuture.org.uk.

COMMUNITY HAS HELPING HAND IN NEW ARTWORK

New artwork has been unveiled in Nursling following a public consultation.



The Nursling Murmurings has been developed by artist Martin Heron and creates a new feature to mark the entrance to Adanac Park. The installations were made possible through funding from LIDL's distribution centre nearby with a Section 106 agreement, where the developer releases money exclusively for public art.

The project has also involved local schools and businesses during its development.

The artist worked with The Cedar School, Nursling School, Rownhams School and Oasis Lordshill Academy, running workshops on the themes of community, local archaeology and mapping the area. The themes and

forms that emerged from workshops, were handprints and murmurings of birds. Martin took this imagery and created the sculptures, using lasercut powdered steel to complete the final works of art.

Nursling, Chilworth and Rownhams councillor, Phil Bundy, said:

"Public art enhances the environment and brings together both businesses and local communities, giving a sense of ownership and investment in the local area. I was delighted to be at the unveiling and to meet both the artist and schoolchildren who quite literally had a hand in the project!"



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www.ConnectToSupportHampshire.org.uk

THE LATEST FROM ANDOVER VISION

The town's community partnership has been busy over the past few months, helping out with projects involving cycling and spacecraft! With more than 50 organisations and businesses formally signed up to the Andover Vision to date, and many more contributing, the partnership continues to grow.

Over the summer, the vision group has helped to support the second Andover Cycling Festival, taken part in the Andover Carnival and Four Fun Fridays and is also helping to deliver a project that will see a spacecraft launched into the stratosphere.

The cycling festival was a huge success for its second year running, with sportive rides, a range of criterium races and a family fun race, encouraging all to take part.

Four Fun Fridays saw activities from planting a 'Jack and the beanstalk' bean to making masks for 'join the circus' week.

Last month, the vision partnership was part of the team that appointed a theatre company in their bid to take

a spacecraft from Andover into the stratosphere.

Chapel Art Studios, in partnership with Andover Vision, has appointed Upstart, to take charge of the community project which will see a spacecraft launched into near space, suspended under a giant weather balloon.

The project is being run in association with Winchester Science Centre, while Upstart will be working alongside a number of community groups and holding public events as part of the scheme before a launch event.



TOWN MILLS RIVERSIDE WORK TO START NEXT YEAR



The Town Mills riverside project has taken a step closer after the scheme was given the green light by the council's Northern Area Planning Committee.

In August, committee councillors gave the go-ahead to the project that will overhaul the area around the Town Mills pub in Andover. It will be completely transformed into a picturesque public park which will showcase the river and incorporate a new shared cycle and footpath from Western Avenue and riverside boardwalk.

The work will involve closing off vehicle access from Bridge Street into Town Mill Road, with a new access route created from Western Avenue to the existing car park and businesses.

As part of the consultation for the renewal of the Andover Vision initiative between 2016 and 2017, many of the 4,000 respondents were keen to see more made of the River Anton in the heart of the town centre. Residents said they wanted it to become somewhere people could stay, play, picnic and enjoy the river.

The project is being funded by Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership and developer contributions. Works are in place to ensure the start of the access scheme will begin in early 2020.

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

"This is such an exciting project which will mark the start of our work to transform Andover town centre.

"We are lucky to have such a beautiful river flowing through the town but we could make so much more of it. And we have received consistent feedback from residents and businesses over the years echoing that view. The redevelopment of the town centre is my main priority and I am delighted that we are already making real headway in our journey to change Andover."

Hampshire County Council's deputy leader and executive member for economy, transport and environment, councillor Rob Humby, added:

"The county council is keen to actively support our market towns across Hampshire and we are investing capital funds to help them to continue to thrive.

"We've designed the space to reduce congestion and improve air quality in the town centre by providing a new access route to the Town Mills car park which will ensure that all the principal town car parks are accessible from the ring road and making improvements to cycling and pedestrian access."



CHANTRY CENTRE
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Opening night Friday 15 November from 4pm

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TOILET REFURBISHMENTS UNDERWAY FOR SHOPPING CENTRE

The Chantry Centre toilets are being given a new lease of life after the council appointed a contractor to completely overhaul them. They will now be equipped with more environmentally sustainable technology including sensor taps, LED lighting and more modern heating systems.

Leader of the council, Phil North, said: *"The existing toilets have consistently attracted criticism from shoppers and visitors. I am therefore pleased that having purchased the centre earlier this year, we are finally able to undertake the work."*

Scheduled to reopen in December, the toilets have been replaced by temporary facilities near the taxi rank, behind Waitrose.

COMMUNITY SPORTS EVENTS RETURN TO TEST VALLEY

Around 100 children took part in the return of community sports events across the borough this summer.

Together, coaches from Andover Athletics Club, the Saints Foundation and Romsey Tennis Club all helped to run professional sessions in Andover and Romsey. The Partnership Community Sports sessions are held every year in Andover and Romsey, but this year is a first where professional coaches have come along to teach those attending.

The sports clubs were joined by a number of community organisations, such as Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Test Valley Borough Council.

It means that as well as being able to take part in sporting sessions covering a range of activities, youngsters also took the chance to learn about the risks of fire, how to stay safe and how to keep active.

Portfolio holder for community and leisure, councillor Tony Ward, said: *"These are fun, engaging and educational days out for lots of children, and of course it's free, too. We know that parents sometimes look for something different to help keep their children occupied during the summer holidays and we're pleased that we can offer this with the added benefits of learning about all aspects of safety in the community."*

"I'm also very grateful to Andover Athletics Club, the Saints Foundation and Romsey Tennis Club for being able to introduce that professional edge to the sports, as well as all the other clubs who took part. I sincerely hope everyone enjoyed their time!"

CALL TO LANDOWNERS OVER AVAILABILITY OF SITES

Test Valley Borough Council is calling on landowners to help identify areas that could be used for future housing, shops and businesses.

The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) is a technical document that provides information on land that is available around the borough. This document is then used by the authority as an evidence base when creating the Local Plan. It will be available to communities looking to produce neighbourhood plans in the future to identify sites which could possibly be suitable for development.

The council is issuing a 'call to sites' and asking landowners to help the

authority identify sites that may be suitable and available for housing use or other economic purposes.

The SHELAA helps the council with information on sites for potential housing, economic development, self-build housing and Gypsies and Travelling Showpeople.

The review is being conducted to ensure that as well as new sites, those that have been previously identified by the council are still available and to update information.

Details of the SHELAA review and submission form are available via

www.testvalley.gov.uk/SHELAAReview2019.

The eight-week submission period began on September 6 and the closing date for submissions is 12pm on Friday, November 1. Submissions can be emailed to planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk or posted to Planning Policy, Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, SP10 3AJ.

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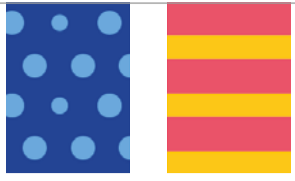
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TAKE PART IN TEST VALLEY'S BIGGEST CELEBRATION OF ART & CULTURE!

Test Valley Borough of Culture 2020 is a year long festival of events, led by and for the community, celebrating the people, places, heritage and culture of Test Valley.

Organised by Test Valley Arts Foundation, the festival aims to make the arts and culture accessible for everyone. Recognising the rich variety of cultural events and activities already taking place in the region, the Borough of Culture programme will celebrate and promote those events and help artists and performers to reach new audiences.



From workshops to music festivals, competitions to art trails and plays, the programme aims to represent a diverse range of organisations and connect with people of all ages and backgrounds across the region.

All artists, performers, events organisers, schools, clubs and cultural organisations are invited to register their events for free on the website and benefit from inclusion in the widespread promotion offered throughout the festival.

TEST VALLEY BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2020



To find out what's on and how to take part visit www.testvalley2020.org

REFILL PROJECT COMES TO TEST VALLEY

Visitors to Romsey and Andover can now stop off and fill up their water bottles after almost 40 businesses signed up to the national refill project.

The scheme, supported by Romsey Future and Andover Vision partnerships, aims to reduce single-use plastic. It offers shoppers and visitors the opportunity to use the locations to fill up their water bottles rather than purchase one from a shop, whether a customer or not.

Businesses signed up include book shops, pubs and Romsey Rapids which all display stickers to let people know they are a refill station. Visitors who are

new to the town or unsure of locations can download the Refill app on their devices and use the map to pinpoint the nearest station.



Romsey Future's sustainability lead, borough councillor Neil Gwynne, said: "I'm really pleased that so many businesses have already signed up to what is such an important project."

"There are more than 16,000 refill stations nationwide already, so it's fantastic that Romsey and Andover have joined in to help reduce plastic use."

Deputy leader of Test Valley Borough Council, Nick Adams-King, added: "We know that the increasing use of plastics is something we absolutely must address and this is a valuable step in helping us to do this. I'm very grateful to all the organisations, larger and smaller, who recognise how vital this is and have offered their services."

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GET CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WRAPPED UP EARLY AT THE GIFT FAIR



This year's **Wrapped Up** event at **The Lights** will take place on **Sunday, 8 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, beverages -

including gorgeous gins, jewellery, crafts, handbags, scarves, Christmas decorations and cards, books and homeware on offer.

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

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

TEST VALLEY TIERS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT COLLABORATE FOR CONFERENCE

More than 50 parish and town councils came together on Saturday, 21 September 2019, to explore how they could continue to work in collaboration for the benefit of their communities.

Held at Kings Somborne Village Hall, the joint conference was facilitated by Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) and the Association of Parish and Town Councils and looked at examples of where other borough, parish and town councils had successfully worked in partnership to provide better services for their areas.

Portfolio holder for community and leisure, Councillor Tony Ward, said:

"Over recent years the borough council has developed a much more 'place-based' way of working and has committed significant resources to this approach. This approach very much depends on meaningful partnership at local levels with town and parish councils. I know that many of the positive things that happen in our communities often start with the input and enthusiasm of parish and town councils.

"These good ideas, when taken through the local action planning process, can make a huge difference to the quality of life of people in Test Valley. This is, in my mind, pure localism in action. Localism isn't however, about any one institution – it is how we all collaborate at a local

level for the greater good and the people we serve."

Chairman of the Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils, Councillor Clive Ward, said:

"Today's conference has come about as a direct result of the ideas emanating from parish and town councils who took part in a workshop meeting last year. That meeting looked at what practical things could be done to build on the current areas of strong partnership working between the different tiers of local government in Test Valley. We want to work collaboratively with other local councils in sharing experiences and resources to better assist our residents and their needs. I am very grateful for the support from TVBC in making this conference happen."

The conference was attended by Test Valley parish and town councillors and clerks, as well as officers from both TVBC and Hampshire County Council.

CHANGES FOR CHANTRY CENTRE WITH NEW SHORT-TERM AGREEMENTS

A number of new stores have opened up over the past few months after the council purchased the Chantry Centre and introduced new 'easy-in, easy-out' occupancy agreements.

Andover mum of two, Kate Lambert, was the first to take advantage of these terms with her Andover Prom Dress Free Rental business, offering prom dresses for rental rather than purchase.

Other shops to open up in the Chantry Centre include furniture store, Showpace, and Posh Barbers. A pop-up jewellery and watch outlet store will be opening soon, while Icon Furniture is also set to move into the former Chantry Furniture unit.

Leader of Test Valley Borough Council, Phil North, said: *"It is a tough time for retail in the UK, but Test Valley Borough Council has been working hard to reduce the number of empty units in the Chantry Centre. Pop-up shops work well for a variety of uses and as we are seeing an increasing focus on leisure and living in town centres, there's a real opportunity to be creative and try something new."*



Harrow Way Community School
Specialist School in Maths & Computing

Harrow Way Community School to feature in the 2019 edition of The Parliamentary Review

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', a judgement of which we are understandably proud.

We are pleased to announce we were chosen to be in the Parliamentary review as a school. The Parliamentary Review's September release is now a key fixture in the political calendar. Harrow Way features alongside key individuals in Education and a small number of outstanding schools in a document that looks back on the year in schools and Westminster. The main aim of the Review is to showcase best practice as a learning tool to the public and private sector.

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.



Learning for life, success for all



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

WARM UP THIS SEASON AT THE LIGHTS



The autumn and winter season at The Lights will take you from those last lazy days of summer through to the dark cosy nights of winter and keep you entertained all the way.

Headline theatre includes the classic Jerome K Jerome tale of Three Men in a Boat in November and seasonal offerings with a Christmas Carol and Snow White the ballet in December and The Adventures of Pinocchio in January from the inimitable Oddsocks.

The Lights wouldn't be the same without sensational tributes, comedy and speakers of interest. Tributes include Simply RE-Red, Complete

Madness, Bon Giovi and Ultimate Elton. Comedy includes Suzi Ruffell, Carl Hutchinson, Phil Wang and a welcome return on his extended tour from Ed Gamble, while speakers include James Ketchell, the only person on the planet to have summited Everest, rowed the Atlantic and cycled the world – the ultimate triathlon! Be inspired, entertained and impressed in equal measure by them all.

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.

GET READY TO SWITCH ON CHRISTMAS

The nights are drawing in and that can only mean one thing: the annual Christmas lights switch on event in Andover High Street!

The event will take place from 5pm to 7.30pm on Friday 15 November and is brought to you by Test Valley Borough Council.

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 including Andover Rock Choir, Rosie Merritt and Long Overdue Theatre School. There

will also 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 provided by the Chantry Centre, so make sure to put the date in your diary!



It will be a bumper weekend as the Andover Artisan Market will also take place on Sunday, 17 November – perfect to stock up on Christmas goodies.

Start your countdown to Christmas in style!

YOUR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR BIN COLLECTION DATES

Normal collection day - Brown bin	Revised collection day - Brown bin
Monday 23 December 2019	Saturday 21 December 2019
Tuesday 24 December 2019	Monday 23 December 2019
Wednesday 25 December 2019	Tuesday 24 December 2019
Thursday 26 December 2019	Friday 27 December 2019
Friday 27 December 2019	Saturday 28 December 2019
Normal collection day - Black bin	Revised collection day - Black bin
Monday 30 December 2019	Monday 30 December 2019
Tuesday 31 December 2019	Tuesday 31 December 2019
Wednesday 1 January 2020	Thursday 2 January 2020
Thursday 2 January 2020	Friday 3 January 2020
Friday 3 January 2020	Saturday 4 January 2020

The last collection day for garden waste collections is Friday December 20 and these will recommence on Monday January 6 2020.

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 2 to 18 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 Pay and Display tickets or RingGo.**

@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

James Ketchell – Chasing Extremes	6 November, 7.30pm
Complete Madness	9 November, 8pm
Three Men in a Boat	20 November, 7.30pm
Ed Gable: Blizzard	23 November, 8pm
Shakespeare Schools Festival	26 November, 7pm
Martin Simpson – A Master of his Art	27 November, 8pm
A Christmas Carol	3 December, 7.30pm
Reindeer on the Roof	5&6 December, 10.30am and 1.30pm
Snow White – Vienna Festival Ballet	14 December 2pm and 7pm
Suzi Ruffell – Dance Like Everyone's Watching	17 December, 8pm
Christmas Memories	18 December, 2pm
Santa's Christmas Countdown	21 December, 10.30am, 1.30pm and 4.30pm
The Big Band at Christmas	22 December, 2pm

The Plaza, Romsey

Bonnie & Clyde	22 to 26 October, 7.30pm
E Minor Pop Academy Winter Show	2 November, 7pm
En Masse Rock Choir	3 November, 7pm
Dead Funny,	19 to 23 November, 7.30pm
Shush,	3 to 7 December, 7.30pm
By Gum! It's Christmas,	9 to 10 December, 7.30pm

Parks and countryside

Winter jobs, Rooksbury Mill

Meeting point at main car park off Barlows Lane 23 November, 10am – 2pm

Winter jobs, Rooksbury Mill

Meeting point at main car park off Barlows Lane 8 December, 10am – 2pm

Scrub clearance, Tadburn Meadows LNR

Meeting point at entrance off Eight Acres 3 November, 10am – 12pm

Ride Management, Zionshill East

Meeting point at Knightwood Leisure Centre 8 December, 10am – 12pm

Coppicing, Abbotswood ANC

Meeting point at Abbotswood Sports Pavilion 15 December, 10am – 12pm

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 19 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 2019

06.11.19	General Purposes Committee	Andover	4.00pm
06.11.19	Cabinet	Andover	5.30pm
13.11.19	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Andover	5.30pm
14.11.19	Northern Area Planning	Andover	5.30pm
19.11.19	Southern Area Planning	Romsey	5.30pm
20.11.19	Council	Andover	5.30pm
21.11.19	Licensing	Romsey	5.30pm

December 2019

04.12.19	Cabinet	Romsey	5.30pm
05.12.19	Northern Area Planning	Andover	5.30pm
10.12.19	Southern Area Planning	Romsey	5.30pm
11.12.19	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
18.12.19	Cabinet	Romsey	5.30pm
19.12.19	Licensing	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: Kathryn Binfield. **Design:** Cammegh Davies Fleming. **Printing:** Latcham Direct. **Advertising:** Test Valley Borough Council has certain statutory and regulatory duties. Appearance of any advertising in this publication should not be considered an endorsement from the Council of any organisation to which these duties apply. As part of the Council's commitment to enhance and preserve the environment, Test Valley News is printed on recycled paper. For more information see: www.testvalley.gov.uk or call the Editor on **01264 368108**.

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

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