

# Mid Test Matters

1 July 2023

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A newsletter from the Borough Councillors for the Test Valley Borough Ward of Mid-Test

Councillors Alison Johnston, Ian Jeffrey, and Stewart MacDonald

## New Mayor for Test Valley

Following Test Valley's Annual Full Council meeting on Wednesday 24 May, Councillor Phil Lashbrook was elected as the new Mayor for Test Valley.

Councillor Lashbrook, who represents the Bellinger Ward on Test Valley Borough Council, will be supported by the Mayoress, Councillor Linda Lashbrook, who represents Charlton and the Pentons.

The new Mayor has spent the last 12 months deputising for the outgoing Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Alan Dowden and Councillor Celia Dowden. At the same meeting, at Crosfield Hall in Romsey, Councillor Gordon Bailey was appointed as Deputy Mayor.



## Man ordered to pay nearly £2,000 after being caught fly-tipping by covert camera

A man caught fly-tipping on a rural lane near Romsey by a hidden Test Valley Borough Council camera has been ordered to pay nearly £2,000. On 29 September 2022, a hidden camera captured footage of a man removing garden waste from his vehicle and dumping it in a layby. The camera had been placed in that location as the area had become a hotspot for fly-tipping. The registration plate of the vehicle was clearly visible and led officers to Douglas Brent, 60, from Southampton.

Appearing before Southampton Magistrates, Brent was given a £1,000 fine and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £400 and costs of £576.60.



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## Over Wallop Neighbourhood Development Plan - Regulation 16 Consultation

Over Wallop Parish Council have formally submitted their Neighbourhood Development Plan for consultation. Test Valley Borough Council is the lead authority and is undertaking the consultation on the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The consultation starts on Tuesday 30th May and responses must be received no later than noon on Wednesday 12th July.

Where possible, please provide any comments using the Consultation Form. Completed forms can be emailed to [neighbourhoodplanning@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodplanning@testvalley.gov.uk)

A reference copy of the Over Wallop Neighbourhood Development Plan and supporting documents, along with paper copies of the representation form are also available at the following locations during their normal opening hours:

\* Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, SP10 3AJ.

\* Andover Library, The Chantry Centre, 53 Chantry St, Andover SP10 1LT

\* Wallops Parish Hall, Salisbury Hill, Middle Wallop SO20 8EG

The documents are also available to view at Over Wallop Neighbourhood Plan, [testvalley.gov.uk](http://testvalley.gov.uk) and at : Over Wallop Neighbourhood Development Plan ([owparishndp.uk](http://owparishndp.uk)) which includes all the evidence base documents.

Following this consultation, the comments received will be passed to an independent examiner, to be appointed by the Council, who will consider the representations and recommend whether the Neighbourhood Development Plan should be put to a community referendum.

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Hughes at TVBC.

## Choices

TVBC's Community Safety Team are working with and supporting the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Hampshire Violence Reduction Unit, and Police colleagues in promoting a new pilot initiative in primary and junior schools locally. 'Choices' is an innovative programme delivered by the Bear Face Theatre and funded by the VRU, to support young people and staff to explore the challenges they might face growing up, empowering them to make healthy decisions and stay safe.

The programme specifically examines the risks and impact of knife crime, the dangers of exploitation and other violence and supports them to find their own solutions, enabling them to build positive, healthy relationships and respond appropriately to potentially risky or challenging situations throughout their lives in an age-appropriate way.

To date six local schools have signed up to the free programme from the September term, the highest take-up for any district in the county, and others are being made aware of the opportunity. The project also helps ensure that the Council meets its requirements under the government's new 'Serious Violence Duty'.

## Barn Meet

The Environmental Enforcement Team attended the 'Barn Meet' located within beautiful Facombe Estates to talk to landowners about environmental crime, especially fly tipping. The team were invited along via Hampshire Police Country Watch and were one of the guest speakers at the meet. The assistance, advice and to do regarding environmental



team were on hand to offer share all the hard work that they crime.

## Clean Air Day

Clean Air Day, this year on the 15th June 2023, was run by Global Action Plan in partnership with multiple local authorities and other organisations. It is the UK's largest air pollution campaign. Every year, air pollution causes up to 36,000 deaths in the UK, with the World Health Organisation and UK Government recognising that air pollution is the largest environmental health risk that we face today.

Whilst air quality in our lovely valley is generally very good (please check out the 2022 Air Quality Status Report at:

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/housingandenvironmentalhealth/environmentalprotection/air-quality>) emissions of pollutants such as fine particulate matter can travel many miles and have a significant impact on those with existing respiratory health issues like asthma.

Information and resources on Clean Air Day 2023 are available on the Action for Clean Air website for businesses, schools, healthcare providers, local authorities, campaign groups and individuals, so we can all get involved at both an organisational and individual level:

<https://www.actionforcleanair.org.uk/campaigns/clean-air-day>.

## Secret Boot Sale

Test Valley Borough Council's brand new Secret Boot Sale was opened for the first time on Sunday 18 June, 12pm - 4pm, repeating on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October.

Taking place across the fourth and fifth floors of the Chantry Centre multistorey car park, this elevated event makes use of an heart of Andover. The car boot sale is making it an almost secret experience, be welcome to come along again and



unusual location in the visible from the ground, although everyone will enjoy the afternoon.

## Test Valley residents help form Council's new four-year plan

We are delighted to share our new four-year plan, which has been developed using the views of around 2,000 residents.

The plan for 2023 - 2027 will play a key part in determining decision-making, laying out our vision, values, priorities and place-based approach for residents.

For the last year, we've has been engaging with residents to find out their priorities and what they want to see in the borough. This included workshops which took place at the end of 2022.



Residents who took part in the event for the new 4 year plan

## Abbotswood man fined after collecting scrap metal without a licence

On 9 February 2023, a Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) officer became aware of a Ford Tipper truck which was heavily loaded with metal.

With the help of Hampshire Police, the driver of the vehicle was identified as 35-year-old Daniel Wells. Wells confirmed he had been collecting scrap metal from Walworth Business Park near Andover and when asked to provide his Scrap Metal Dealer's Licence, he admitted to not having one.

Wells pleaded guilty and appeared at Southampton Magistrates Court on 2 June 2023 where he was given a fine of £416 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £166 and costs of £200.

## Bury Hill opening

We are delighted to announce the opening of Bury Hill Meadows, a stunning green space designed to provide a safe and accessible haven for our communities.

This project offers a remarkable multi-user experience, showcasing breathtaking views of Test Valley and the North Wessex Downs Area of Natural Beauty.

Bury Hill Meadows features mown paths that invite you to explore its natural wonders. Take a stroll along the perimeter route, spanning approximately 1.3 miles, or opt for a shorter loop through the central path, which winds its way through the grassland and wildflower meadow. Along the way, you'll find benches strategically placed for you to rest and immerse yourself in the spectacular views surrounding the area.

We are proud to work with Andover Trees United to enhance the site's biodiversity. A section of woodland will be planted to the south of the meadows, expanding on their successful tree planting efforts in 2022. The group will once again be inviting local schools to take part in their planting fortnight.

Bury Hill Meadows welcomes dog walkers on its mown paths, with designated areas for training and exercise. We encourage visitors to access the site on foot or by bicycle, embracing sustainable transportation. For those coming from further afield, a small car park is available off Red Rice Road, accommodating up to 20 cars, including disabled access spaces.

## Cycle-powered cinema whizzing its way to Andover

Hop on your bikes to Vigo Park for a unique cycle cinema experience.

As part of Andover Cycling Festival, Test Valley Borough Council has organised a giant cinema screen to pop up in Vigo Park on Saturday 29 July and show the musical favourite Grease.

Pedal power is all that will be needed for Andover's outdoor cinema screening, as this film will be operated solely by energetic volunteers on static bikes. No electricity will be used to project the film, so the audience will need to gear up and take it in turns and keep the film running throughout the evening.



## Work together to report graffiti

It can cost a lot to clean up and repair graffiti and vandalism. Let's work together to prevent these crimes from happening in Test Valley. Find out how to report it here:

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

## Everyone who has smoked to be offered middle-age lung screening

In an effort to detect and treat lung cancer earlier, NHS England plans to offer lung screening to everyone who has ever smoked. Lung cancer is responsible for approximately 35,000 deaths annually in the country and is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths, accounting for one in five cases. The survival rates for lung cancer are among the lowest, mainly due to late-stage diagnosis when treatment is less effective. The programme aims to invite millions of people aged 55 to 74 for lung checks, with around 1 million screenings conducted each year. The initiative follows a successful pilot in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas, where the smoking rate is four times higher. The pilot resulted in the detection of over 2,000 cancer cases, with 76% of them being identified at an earlier stage compared to 29% outside the program in 2019. The first phase of the scheme will reach 40% of the eligible population by March 2025, officials said, with 100% coverage by March 2030.

## **SSEN announces £280,000 of funding to boost community resilience**

The launch of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Distribution's latest Resilient Communities Fund was announced on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023. This enabled communities across central southern England to apply for awards that will help them to build resilience in the face of prolonged power interruptions, for example during storms and severe weather events which can damage the electricity infrastructure.

Running over six weeks from Monday 12 June, this year's fund of £280,000 will be available to eligible communities, councils and charities in grants ranging from £1,000 to £10,000. In exceptional cases, involving multi-community applications, funding up to a maximum of £40,000 can be considered.

SSEN's Resilient Communities Fund is now in its ninth year, and in that time has seen a wide variety of applications that have all sought to boost communities through improving resilience and responding to the needs of their residents in adverse and difficult circumstances.

The deadline for applications to the fund is 5pm on Monday 31 July, and applicants are asked to consider the following criteria for funding, which seek to support projects falling under these two categories:

**Resilience for emergency events** - To enhance community facilities, services and communications specifically to support the local response in the event of a significant emergency such as extended power loss.

**Vulnerability** - To protect the welfare of vulnerable community members particularly during significant emergency events such as extended power loss, through enhancing their resilience and improving community participation and effectiveness.

The SSEN Resilient Communities Fund Panel, made up of organisations with expertise in community resilience planning, will review applications and determine which projects should receive funding, with the successful applications announced in the autumn.

Managing Director for SSEN Distribution, Chris Burchell, said: "SSEN is delighted to, once more, open its Resilient Communities Fund and we look forward to welcoming applications from communities, charities and councils across our distribution areas and all manner of rural and urban areas, each with their own unique needs.

This latest fund of £280,000 will make a huge difference to communities and the challenges they may face due to our changing weather patterns, which bring the potential for power cuts, flooding or extreme heat.

Our Resilient Communities fund has helped hundreds of communities and vulnerable community members since it started in 2015, and we look forward to being able to support even more schemes this year."

Set up in 2015, the Resilient Communities Fund has provided £4.7 million to 680 not-for-profit community groups and charities. Following the conclusion of this final year of the Resilient Communities Fund, SSEN Distribution will be developing and launching a new fund in late autumn of 2023. While continuing to support community resilience, this new fund will seek to include environmental resilience and the adoption of low carbon technologies.

To find out more about the Resilient Communities Fund, read SSEN's annual fund reports and apply for funding, please visit <https://www.ssen.co.uk/RCF/>.

## Mind - Safe Haven

This is a crisis centre run by non-clinicians in Basingstoke. If someone is in crisis (which can be absolutely anything on what they perceive to be a crisis, relationship break ups, suicide, anxiety etc) they are able to contact this service either virtually or by telephone. They are available 365 days a year.

It is available for anyone in North and Mid Hampshire.

More information on the centre and the services it provides will be available soon.

## Events

### Test Valley Freedom Parade

Friday 14 July, 5:30pm - 8pm

Service personnel from the 22 Engineer Regiment and Tidworth Army Band will exercise their Freedom of Test Valley in a special display. Come along to watch the parade, starting at Andover.

There will be refreshments on Bridge Street from 5:30pm and children.



Refreshments will be available on the High Street from 5:30pm and children.

July is bursting at the seams with festivals, fun activities and events.

Test Valley is a hive of activity this July, from markets and festivals to engaging events for all the family.



## Test Valley Community Energy Scheme launch is a success

TVBC launched its community energy scheme in partnership with Community Energy South (CES) and Dragonfly Power. The event was held on 13 June at Stockbridge village hall. This two-year initiative was led by CES and funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as part of a borough-wide programme to help communities to decarbonise. It involves:

- Working with Dragonfly Power, a Test Valley community energy group, to identify suitable sites and develop a pipeline of community-owned renewable energy projects in the Borough.
- Supporting community buildings to reduce their energy costs.
- Developing a network of trained energy champions across the Borough who can provide household energy advice to help improve the energy efficiency and warmth of people's homes.
- Working with two rural communities in the Borough to develop community-led decarbonisation plans.

For more information to volunteer or put forward a potential site for solar PV power please contact: [testvalley@communityenergy.com](mailto:testvalley@communityenergy.com)

## 2023 Parliamentary Boundary Review

Following the submission of the Boundary Commission for England's final report to the Speaker of the House of Commons on 27 June, the Commission have been informed that the report has been laid in Parliament. The Boundary Commission for England have therefore published the recommendations on their website, at [::https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk](https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk).

Following the laying of our report in Parliament, the Government must now prepare the Order to give effect to the recommendations. Any questions about the implementation of our recommendations should be put to the Government.

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