



King's Somborne Referendum

A Referendum relating to the adoption of the King's Somborne Neighbourhood Plan will be held on 9 November 2023.

The Referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures which are like those used at local government elections.

In accordance with the regulations the specified documents must be accessible online for the Referendum. The council have also made the documents available for public viewing during the premises normal opening times and may be inspected at:

- Test Valley Borough Council, Former Magistrates' Court, Church Street, Romsey, SO51 8AQ
- Cross Stores, The Cross, Winchester Rd, King's Somborne, SO20 6NY

All of the documents can be viewed on the website at: [King's Somborne Neighbourhood Plan | Test Valley Borough Council](#)

Honorary Aldermen of Test Valley Borough

A Special Meeting of Council took place on Wednesday 25 October 2023 following the ordinary Council meeting.

At the meeting the title of Honorary Alderwoman was bestowed on former Councillor Dorothy Baverstock and the title of Honorary Alderman was bestowed on former Councillor Tony Ward.

Both former Councillors were honoured in this way following their retirement, in consideration of their long service to the Council and outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of the people of Test Valley.

For Mid-Test, Tony's contribution has been recognised as uniquely valuable. As well as acknowledging his 16 years service at the heart of the community, King's Somborne and the whole Borough have profited from his skill and energy in his roles on the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and as Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Leisure services. His King's Somborne community in particular has been well served by his role in advancing major projects such as the village pre-school and the Somborne Café.



Tony, we appreciate your creation of Mid-Test Matters which will continue. We wish you a long and happy retirement: your humour and dedication to your work will be missed.

TVAPTC/ TVBC Conference

The Annual Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils and Test Valley Borough Council annual conference took place in September. The event was a great success with representatives from parish and town councils across the borough attending to share knowledge and ideas on a range of subjects including the Local Plan, community planning, environmental services and community engagement.



The next meeting of the Association will be on Thursday 23 November and will include a presentation by Hampshire Fire and Rescue on Fire Safety and a session by TVBC Neighbourhood Planning Officer to discuss the refresh of the TVBC Community Planning Toolkit.

External Audit

The Council's external auditors, Ernst & Young, attended the recent Audit Committee meeting in September. Part of their presentation was to update the Committee on the audit of the Council's 2022/23 Statement of Accounts.

At a national level, there is a significant backlog of local authority audits. This is not the case in Test Valley, where all accounts up to 2021/22 have been completed and approved.

Ernst & Young have not yet undertaken any planning of the 2022/23 audit and are not anticipating doing so in the immediate future. Their focus is on trying to clear as much of the backlog as possible. EY are waiting for guidance from central government on deadlines for approvals for accounts for both 2022/23 and 2023/24.

They were keen to point out to the Audit Committee that TVBC is considered a low-risk audit and that the lack of completion of their audit work is not indicative of any failing at the Council.

Test Valley Resilience Forum - Saturday 28th October 2023

Over the last 10 years it has inspired many communities in Test Valley to become more resilient through peer support and learning.

The October session was a chance to help bodies such as Hampshire County Council, Test Valley Borough Council and other organisations, from the Hampshire and IoW LRF, understand what more they can do to encourage community resilience.

Case studies based on Mottisfont, Romsey and King's Somborne were looked at to consider how different size communities could develop their own resilience capacity.

Test Valley Resilience Forum

**King's Somborne
Village Hall,
SO20 6PP**



**Saturday,
28th October
9.45am**

Come along to the next Resilience Forum to hear how communities in Test Valley are increasing their resilience. The session will be an opportunity to see what support you can access.

Contact Gbloss@testvalley.gov.uk to RSVP and for more info

Polling District and Polling Place Review

Test Valley Borough Council is undertaking a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places. The review will consider the suitability of existing polling stations and possible alternative options. As part of the review, the Council is consulting residents, elected councillors, political parties, parish councils, groups representing disabled people and other interested groups to seek their views.

Anyone making comments on the suitability of existing or proposed polling stations is asked to suggest alternative stations, where possible. They are also asked to provide their reasons, to help with the review.

The consultation period for the review formally commences on 13 October 2023 and concludes on 24 November 2023.

The council would welcome any person or organisation with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability to make a representation or comment on the proposals.

Information about the existing schedule of polling districts and polling places can be inspected at the offices of Test Valley Borough Council during normal office hours 08:30am - 5pm Monday to Thursday and 08:30am - 4:30pm on Friday.

Feedback should be emailed to pdr@testvalley.gov.uk or sent in writing to: Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, Hants, SP10 3AJ.

Stockbridge Blooms Grant



Councillor Alison Johnston recently presented a Business Incentive Grant to Kate McGrane at Stockbridge Blooms, a flower farm in Over Wallop. These Council grants are available to any small business starting up in Test Valley and make a positive contribution to start-up costs.

Stockbridge Parish Council News

There is still a vacancy for one Councillor at Stockbridge PC and the Clerk would like to hear from anyone interested in becoming a Councillor and contributing in this way to their local community.

At the September meeting, residents from Old London Road discussed HCC's proposal for changing the layout of the road. What is being proposed at this stage is not a one-way street. This proposal had been seen as the solution for solving the traffic safety problems outside the school at the start and end of the school day. However, HCC has said that it would not want to instal a one-way street without a cycle lane that allows cyclists to travel safely both ways down the road. The cost of providing a cycle lane would be expensive.

The Parish Council has now acquired the site of the old Victorian Workhouse, Lancaster House. The council is keen to ensure that the site becomes an asset for the community. If there are any preferences as to what it could be used for e.g. a wild camping site, a nature trail or a tiny forest, please let the Clerk know.



Armistice Day 2023

On Saturday 11 November the Mayor, Councillor Philip Lashbrook, will be in the Memorial Park, Romsey, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Gordon Bailey, will be in the Garden of Remembrance, St Mary's Church, Andover, for the Armistice Day commemorations and 11am Silence.

All are most welcome to attend either location for the commemorations, from 10.50am.

Recycle Week 2023

Recycle Week 2023, the nation's biggest annual celebration of recycling, ran from 17th to 23rd October. This year's theme is 'The Big Recycling Hunt' and it shines a spotlight on those items people forget to, or chose not to, recycle. We are supporting this national campaign, by encouraging everyone to find those lost recyclables.



So next time you're in your bathroom - remind yourself to recycle those empty toilet roll tubes, shampoo bottles, deodorant aerosol cans and cleaning bottles. Remember to recycle your newspapers and magazines after reading them - whatever room you're in! As well as your glass bottles, remember to recycle your glass jars too - even those awkward ones like Marmite or peanut butter. A simple rinse will do or pop them in your dishwasher. For more hints and tips, check out Recycling Stars on Facebook and let's keep our black bins free of recyclables.

Other News

Men sentenced for fly-tipping near Romsey

Three men pleaded guilty after being caught dumping household waste on Lee Drove, near Romsey.

A covert trail camera caught David Hill, 69 of Southampton, Stuart Haines, 43 of Winchester, and Gordon Freeman, 38 of Winchester, removing rubbish, including a fridge, from the back of a vehicle and throwing it into a hedge on 19 June 2022.



Romsey shop awarded Business Incentive Grant



A new shop - Fig and Fox - on The Hundred in Romsey has been awarded a Business Incentive Grant.

Fig and Fox opened in October 2022, selling independently crafted and ethically sourced household goods, houseplants, gifts, local food and drink, along with baked goods and speciality coffee.

Greening Campaign-Information Events for Communities

The Greening Campaign is a scheme through which communities can consider how to tackle climate change, including measures to reduce energy use, health impacts



The Greening Campaign's team of experts are funded by the Lottery to support 20 communities across Hampshire - If your community sees climate change as a priority find out how we can help at one of our free information events:

Mon 23 October - The Pallant Centre, Havant

Tues 24 October - Civic Offices, Basingstoke

Mon 6 November - Lyndhurst Community Centre, Lyndhurst

All events start at 7pm

hello@greening-campaign.org

www.greening-campaign.org



related to climate change, waste prevention, promoting biodiversity and growing your own food. Over the last 15 years they have worked with over 200 communities. They are currently working with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, and the sustainable gardening charity, Garden Organic.

National Lottery funding has been awarded to help 20 communities in Hampshire support their journey in relation to climate change through this scheme. Eight are already signed up across the county, so there is funding available for a further twelve communities. A small number of information evenings are being organised across the county in case anyone wants to find out more, alternatively you can get in touch with the Greening Campaign using the details on the attached poster.

Entertainment

Cinema

Stockbridge Community Cinema

We are pleased to provide details of our screenings next season which as usual offer a variety of film genres and hopefully with something to interest everyone.

One Fine Morning (November): a touching reflection on love and loss.

Our [Wednesday](#) films offer something lighter:

What's Love Got to Do With It (November): A British romantic comedy in which a documentary filmmaker (Lily James) films a man travelling to Pakistan for an arranged marriage.

We end the year with a 'recorded live' screening of one of the most popular ballets

-The Nutcracker.

Tickets for all films and further details on our website.

Somborne Community Cinema

Mission : Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One (14th December):

Ethan Hunt and his IMF team must track down a dangerous weapon before it falls into the wrong hands.

Barbie (9th November): The box-office hit of the year, *Barbie* is a fun movie that has plenty of heartwarming moments and good messages.

Tickets for these films are £6 each and are available from the Somborne Community Cinema web site at www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk or at the door on the night.

For more details of events and activities taking place this month, take a look at the [Visit Test Valley website](#).

A Defibrillator Near You

Defibrillators for public use are located at:

Stockbridge Fire Station (available 24 hours)

Longstock Village Hall (available 24 hours)

Leckford Estate Office (restricted hours)

Leckford Farm Shop (restricted hours)

Up Somborne Rookley Farm (24 hours)

Instructions for use are given when the device is commandeered but for anyone who would like prior understanding of how to use one, see

<https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/events/>

If there are any issues in this copy that you would like to discuss, or any items of news that you would like to be considered in a future copy please contact any of the Borough councillors.

Contact



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