

Borough Councillor Report

Cllr Maureen Flood and Cllr Susanne Hasselmann

February 2026

Full Council Motion – Land Banking and "A Drain on the Nation" report

Following a Council Motion on the 15 October 2025 calling for sustainable development and the Government's continued pressure on house building, it was resolved that the Council would write to the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on the proposals to reduce land banking including incentives and penalties to encourage delivery including on brownfield sites and to respond to the Home Builders Federations (HBF) report, "A Drain on the Nation" in which they call for the Government to resolve development delays due to wastewater infrastructure. In particular they are calling for:

- Reassertion of paragraph 201 of the NPPF and remind local planning authorities that questions relating to wastewater should not intrude into development management decisions.
- Remind local authorities that water companies operate under a statutory duty to meet the requirements of the land-use planning system and home builders pay them charges to ensure that they do so.
- Insist that water companies, working with Ofwat and the Environment Agency, make provision for the Government's home building targets by fully reflecting requirements in their Water Resource Management Plans and the Wastewater Infrastructure Plans.

The council has received a response from Government to both letters. Amongst the detail they refer to the consultation on the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and have included specific detail on the preservation of chalk streams:

'The government is consulting on a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that includes clearer, more rules-based policies for decision-making and plan-making, designed to make planning policy easier to use and underpin the delivery of faster and simpler local plans. The consultation includes policies on the protection of chalk streams. The consultation on changes to the NPPF is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>. It will remain open for responses until 10th March 2026. We have included explicit recognition of chalk streams in both the natural environment and pollution chapters of the proposed NPPF as features of high environmental value.'

Council to explore landscape protection potential for Test Valley chalk streams



Test Valley Borough Council are investigating whether Test Valley's chalk streams could become a National Landscape, previously known as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Early feasibility work will help the local authority understand whether areas might be suitable for designation.

The work will focus on protecting the River Test, its tributaries and other chalk streams across Test Valley and beyond.

A National Landscape designation is made by Natural England and is one of the highest forms of landscape protection in the country. It recognises the natural, cultural and historic importance of an area and helps protect places from pressures such as climate change and habitat loss.

Please contact your Councillor if you would like more information.

Man fined for fly-tipping bathroom waste near Andover



A man has been ordered to pay over £1,700 after admitting to fly-tipping bathroom fittings and household waste in Privet Lane near Andover.

Around 19 April 2024, Christian Godwin, 29, from Newbury, was hired to fit a new toilet, cistern and basin at a home in Aldershot and dispose of the old ones.

The waste, which included a toilet, cistern, sink, as well as wood, polythene, plumbing fittings, cardboard boxes and packaging, was later found dumped in Privet Lane, near Andover.

Building energy efficiency support service available for community groups

A support service for community groups and not for profit organisations on how they can make their buildings more energy efficient and, in the long term, help to reduce their energy bills is still available.

Arthian, who were appointed to undertake this service, will provide their support in four stages:

1. An initial conversation via phone call or Teams meeting will take place to understand more about the level of support required;
2. A site visit will be undertaken to inspect the building;
3. A bespoke report will be produced, outlining the findings, to highlight what could be done to make the building more energy efficient;
4. A follow up conversation will be scheduled with the community organisation to review the findings of the report, answer any queries and clarify next steps.

The service will be available until the middle of March 2026. For more information, please contact your Councillor.

Pond on Bury Hill Meadows

TVBC are planning to dig an ephemeral pond at Bury Hill in the southwest corner of the meadows (see image). This area tends to collect water as it runs off the hill and is often very wet after a heavy rain fall.

The pond will be unlined, making it seasonal and so it will dry up in summer months. The seasonal nature of these types of ponds' really benefits amphibians, as fish don't establish thus reducing predication of their young. A bund will be constructed

with the spoils along the back of the pond to enhance structural diversity and create new habitats. The corner will be fenced off to prevent dogs swimming in the pond.

Work is expected to start by the end of February 2026.



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