

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

Cllrs Alison Johnston, Ian Jeffrey, and Stewart MacDonald

Council Joins No Mow May to support pollinators



Test Valley Borough Council is inviting residents to help create a pollinator-friendly borough for the month of May and beyond, as part of No Mow May. This national campaign

supports pollinators by leaving stretches of land to grow wild.

As part of our commitment to create a sustainable, environmentally-friendly borough, we have mapped out a number of green spaces and banks of urban meadows that will be allowed to grow wild as 'pollinator rest stops' throughout May and beyond.

Signs will be popping up across the borough to show where these green spaces are located. Key areas for residents to look out for are roundabouts, parks and nature reserves.

No Mow May is a simple but effective way to help pollinators thrive. By allowing wildflowers and other native plants to grow, we can create essential habitats for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators, which are vital to our ecosystem. In addition to supporting pollinators, No Mow May also helps to reduce carbon emissions, save water, and create beautiful, natural landscapes.

Charlotte Rimmer, countryside officer for Test Valley Borough Council, said: "No Mow May is a great way to support pollinators and make a positive impact on the environment. We would love residents to join us in this campaign and help us create pollinator-friendly habitats in their gardens and green spaces."

For more information, please contact Test Valley Borough Council's countryside team: countryside@testvalley.gov.uk

Last Updated: 02 May 2023



Failing to assist with fly-tipping investigation leads to man being ordered to pay nearly £2,000

A man has been ordered to pay nearly £2,000 after failing to help with an investigation into a large fly-tip found in woodlands known as Lords Wood.

In June 2022, Test Valley Borough Council received multiple reports of a large fly-tip, which included a number of plastic bags containing household waste, a mattress, plastic garden plant pots, household furniture, wood, carpet, and other household items.

Contents inside the waste led officers to Mark Dane, of Haweswater Close, Maybush, Southampton.

Dane was invited to attend an interview under caution on 23 September 2022, but he failed to attend. He was later served with a notice requiring assistance with the investigation, but there was also no response.

Mr Dane was sentenced with failing to assist with the fly-tipping investigation. At Southampton Magistrates Court on 31 March 2023, Dane was ordered to pay a fine of £1,100, a victim surcharge of £440 and costs of £451.

Paul Wykes, Head of Environmental Services at Test Valley Borough Council, said:

"This is a brilliant result and one that people should take notice of. Failing to help us when investigating these matters will lead to a harsh sentence and one that is so easily avoidable. There is no excuse for this and we will do all we can to ensure people face the consequences."

Last Updated: 27 April 2023

Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping in Test Valley

A workshop on TVBC's strategy for preventing homelessness and rough sleeping in the borough will take place in the Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils meeting on Thursday 22nd June at 7.30 p.m. in King's Somborne Village Hall. The meeting is free for anyone to attend as long as they are a parish councillor or clerk anywhere in the borough. There is no limit to the number of councillors or clerks who can attend from the same parish or town. Please share this information with all members of your parish or town council.

Contact Emma Silverton (esilverton@testvalley.gov.uk) if you have any queries.

Test Valley Borough Council's Cost of Living Grant Scheme

Test Valley Borough Council created a new £100k Cost of Living Grant scheme to help organisations that are supporting people who are struggling with rising costs. The new funding pot was agreed at a cabinet meeting on Thursday 29 September 2022.

For more information about the Test Valley Borough Council Cost of Living Grant please visit: www.testvalley.gov.uk/costoflivinggrantscheme

Test Valley based, not-for-profit organisation or community groups, who are interested in the Cost of Living Grant, can contact the Community Engagement Officer for the relevant ward to discuss this further, all contact details can be found here: www.testvalley.gov.uk/CEOfficers

For more cost of living related support, please visit the Test Valley Borough Council Cost of Living Support Hub: www.testvalley.gov.uk/CostOfLivingSupport

There has been 1 Cost of Living grant awarded this week, as follows;

Round	Organisation	Project	Award value	Totals
21 24/05/2023	Romsey Family Support Group	Clothing and shoe provision Towards the cost of providing clothes and shoes for children under 5 years old and families most in need	£1,000	1 award £1,000
Totals to date			£63,919.31 awarded	59 awards

There have now been 59 awards made, totalling £63,919.31 in funding, which means £36,080.69 remains available.

Launch of Test Valley community energy programme

The council is launching a Test Valley community energy scheme to work with communities across the borough to identify and deliver projects that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle climate change.

This programme is being delivered in partnership with Community Energy South and Dragonfly Power during 2023/24 and 2024/25, funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It will provide the Council with tangible deliverables to meet the Climate Emergency Action Plan which includes a commitment to work with our communities and partners to identify opportunities for making the Borough carbon neutral.

The launch event is planned at 6pm on Tuesday 13 June at Stockbridge Town Hall inviting residents, parish & town councils and community groups to find out more, and how they can get involved.

For more information and to book your ticket for this free event visit:

[Test Valley Community Energy Launch Event Tickets, Tue 13 Jun 2023 at 17:30 | Eventbrite](#)

WARNING: Have you seen this man?

This man is a suspected crook, his car is below (he did have a different car a few months ago) who comes to areas such as Mid-Test with a plausible story (lost or looking for....) but then a few weeks later a break-in occurs. He was about last year, many break-ins followed early this year and again this week. Please if you see him be very firm, but polite, make clear you/we are aware of him, he is on CCTV and Police will be notified.



Mid-Test Ward

At the recent borough elections we said goodbye to Councillor Tony Ward after 16 years of highly-valued service to our community. His wisdom and experience will be missed by all of us and we wish him and Penny a happy and well-deserved retirement.

In Tony's place we welcome Stewart MacDonald to the team. Stewart and his family live in Over Wallop and he adds considerable financial experience to the council, having worked in the City of London, and now as a director of a number of energy- and climate-related businesses. He is currently chairman of the Over Wallop Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Mid-Test is an enormous geographical area containing 12 Parish Councils as well as several Parish Meetings. Your borough councillors, Alison Johnston, Ian Jeffrey and Stewart MacDonald have decided to divide the lead councillor role as evenly as possible between the three of them to manage the parish workload, although each of them will support the others to cover absences.

Initially, Alison will lead Broughton, Houghton, Lockerley and Mottisfont/Dunbridge. Ian will lead in King's Somborne, Stockbridge, Longstock and East Dean. Stewart will lead in the Tytherleys and the Wallops. This division of responsibility will be under regular review.

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