

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

Cllrs Alison Johnston, Ian Jeffrey, and Tony Ward

## **TVBC secures funding to further commitment to making council-owned buildings carbon neutral.**

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) has successfully secured funding from the government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) for Phase 3b of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). This grant is delivered by Salix Finance on behalf of DESNZ.

The authority has been awarded up to £221,871, which will help to further its commitment to ensuring council owned and occupied buildings will be carbon neutral. The funding is available for heat decarbonisation projects within public sector, non-domestic buildings.

Decarbonisation is the term used for the process of removing or reducing the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) output from a process – so in this case it is looking to remove carbon from how we heat buildings.

The secured funds will be used to install energy efficiency measures, by changing to LED lighting and improving insulation measures, and upgrade the heating system to one powered by cleaner energy at the council's Bourne House depot in Romsey.

## **Cost of living information and advice**

We understand that the rising cost of living is a concern for everyone now.

Free help and advice is available for anyone worried about the cost of living crisis.

Visit our website for:

- help with money and debt
- help with fuel and energy
- help with food and essentials
- support for communities
- information on warm spaces in the borough
- information on staying well and resilient

Find out more: [www.testvalley.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support)



## Council going green to keep the streets clean!

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) is taking a step forward in reducing its carbon footprint, following the delivery of three new electric powered pedestrian sweepers.

The quieter, better-performing new machines will be replacing the Council's existing fleet of diesel pedestrian ones.

The new sweepers are more powerful, and are quieter too, which is beneficial as they will be predominantly used in both Andover and Romsey town centres.

In 2020, the council approved its Climate Emergency Action Plan, which identifies what actions the local authority will take towards becoming carbon neutral.

Members of the public should start to see the pedestrian sweepers in action over the coming weeks.

## Waste Less, Save More



A flyer with tips on how to help you reduce your waste and save you money has been produced by Hampshire County Council.

It includes things like:

- Tips for the kitchen
- Tips for the bathroom
- Reuse and repair

[Click here for details from the flyer:-](#)

[Waste Less, Save More](#)

## Council Tax Bills March 2023

Council Tax bills will be arriving in the post over the next few weeks. Your bill will detail exactly how much you will pay each year, and the breakdown to each organisation.

The amount of Council Tax you pay depends on what band the property is, and where it is located.

You can find out what Council Tax band you are on the GOV.UK website: [www.gov.uk/council-tax-bands](http://www.gov.uk/council-tax-bands)

For an average Band D property, the total bill for 2023/24 will be £1,951.05, excluding parish or town council charges. This is collected by us (Test Valley Borough Council) and then distributed between the following organisations:

- Hampshire County Council, £1,460.25, an increase of £69.39 from 2022/23 (4.99%)
- Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire £251.46 an increase of £15 from 2022/23 (6.34%)
- Test Valley Borough Council £158.91, an increase of £5 from 2022/23 (3.25%)
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service £80.43, an increase of £5 from 2022/23 (6.63%)

Council Tax is an annual charge households pay to their local council.

We send out the total Council Tax bill each year in March. You pay your bill to us (Test Valley Borough Council) each month and we pass on the relevant amounts to three other organisations.

Each organisation has different responsibilities for providing public services. Council Tax helps to fund hundreds of local services.

The money you pay to Test Valley Borough Council funds the services we provide.

Our services are also funded by business rates and government support.

We provide several local services, including:

- supporting people at risk of becoming homeless
- planning permissions for new and existing properties
- waste and recycling collections
- housing advice and support
- support for local businesses and town centres
- food hygiene inspections
- street cleaning
- countryside management including nature reserves.
  
- managing council car parks
- pest control
- election and democracy services

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Your Council Tax also helps fund services from Hampshire County Council, such as:

- support for children and families
  - street lighting and highways care
  - waste disposal
  - care and support for older people and people with disabilities
  - adult social care.
- To see information about all the services we provide, visit our website: [www.testvalley.gov.uk](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk)

Contact us as soon as possible if you are struggling to pay your Council Tax or think you will have difficulty paying it. We will do our best to help you.

For support with paying your Council Tax, email [CouncilTax@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:CouncilTax@testvalley.gov.uk) or call 01264 368000.

You can pay your Council Tax in a number of ways:

- by Direct Debit
- Debit Card
- Telephone banking or standing order
- by post
- at a post office or pay point outlet

Find out more about the options available to you when paying your Council Tax:

[www.testvalley.gov.uk/benefitsandcounciltax/counciltax/paying-bill](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/benefitsandcounciltax/counciltax/paying-bill)

Did you know that you can receive your Council Tax bills by email and manage your Council Tax account online?

Using our online facilities you can notify us of a change of address, set up or amend direct debit instructions and apply for, or cancel, a single person discount. To register for paperless billing you will need your account reference and online key, both of which are shown on the front of your latest bill.

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

## Easter half term hangouts

Fresh from its success in February, more half term hangouts are taking place in Romsey and North Baddesley this Easter.

It's for 11-16 year olds to hang out with their friends and get some free food and drink.

They're happening on three dates:

**Monday 3 April** at Ganger Farm Sports Centre, SO51 0EE - 10am - 2pm

**Tuesday 11 April** at Ganger Farm Sports Centre, SO51 0EE - 2pm - 6pm

**Wednesday 12 April** at North Baddesley Community Association, SO52 9AQ - 1pm - 5pm

People don't need to book, just turn up to whatever sessions are suitable.

For more information contact Antony Chapman.

[Contact Antony Chapman](#)

## Skateboard lessons

A promotional poster for skateboard coaching. The top left shows a skateboarder in a crouched position on a concrete ramp. To the right, the text 'SKATE-BOARD COACHING' is written in large, bold, white and red letters. Below this, it says '(ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED)'. At the bottom, there are logos for Test Valley Borough Council and Team Rubicon, along with social media links for Facebook, Twitter, and the website.

**SKATE-BOARD COACHING**  
(ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED)

Test Valley Borough Council

TEAM RUBICON

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TESTVALLEYBC  
@TESTVALLEYBC  
WWW.TESTVALLEY.GOV.UK

Together with Team Rubicon, we're offering FREE skateboarding coaching sessions in **Andover, Romsey and Knightwood** for all ages and abilities.

No need to worry about equipment, all gear will be provided. Plus, there's no need to book, just turn up and join in.

Find dates and times here:

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



## Easter egg hunt at Mottisfont!

### Starts Saturday 1st April

The Easter egg adventure trail is packed with traditional springtime activities for the whole family.

The trail weaves through the walled kitchen garden, across grassy paddocks and near a sparkling chalk stream where bridges provide the perfect spot for a game of Pooh Sticks.

The trail takes place between **1st - 16th April**, from 10am to 5pm, with last entry at 4.30pm.

[Find out more.](#)

## Egg hunt with a twist in Andover!

### Starts Saturday 1st April

There are 8 eggs hidden around the Andover Museum and Museum of the Iron Age.

On each egg there is a picture of different British Bird. Using your activity sheet, find the eggs and match them to the birds on your sheet.

Once you have completed your spotter sheets, take them back to reception to collect your prize. The sheets can then be taken home and used to continue bird spotting at home or at your local green space.

[Find out more.](#)

## Whitchurch Silk Mill Easter Egg Hunt

### Monday 3rd April

Whitchurch Silk Mill is opening for an Easter Egg hunt. Explore the Mill grounds to find the missing chocolate left by the Easter bunny!

Each child will receive a bag to collect their chocolate and they will have 13 letters (chocolates) to find. You can arrive at any time during the event (10.30-12).

Booking is only required for children participating in the event. [Find out more.](#)



## Second Sundays in Andover

### Sunday 9th April

Second Sundays brings together seasonal food and drink producers, designer-makers and artists alongside street food, craft drinks, workshops and music on the second Sunday of every month in Andover town centre.

Andover and its surrounding towns and villages are packed with talent - designing, making, cooking, crafting and brewing. Second Sundays brings together the best of Hampshire and the South West, with something for everyone.

We have also teamed up with Unity to run a Golden goose egg hunt between 10am until 12pm, featuring golden eggs created by students at Andover College.

Families will be invited to collect an entry form from the Unity stall at Second Sundays, search the High Street for the hidden eggs and return their findings to claim a special Easter treat.



## Failure to help with fly-tipping investigation lands man in court

A Southampton man ended up in court earlier this month and was ordered to pay £240 after failing to assist Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) with a fly-tipping investigation.

In January 2020, TVBC received reports of a large fly-tip on Foxes Lane, Wellow.

The waste consisted of carpets, a divan bed, a fridge, construction waste, a table, a white door, wooden shelving, metal gates, plaster board and a vast quantity of general household items and furniture.

A council officer found evidence that the waste had originated from an address in Southampton. They contacted the landlord who advised that he had instructed his handyman to employ a contractor to clear the waste.

The handyman had seen a vehicle collecting scrap locally and arranged for the driver to meet him at the property.

The driver visited the property on 11 January and arranged a price with the landlord over the phone. He removed the contents of the house on the same day.

The landlord later received a telephone call confirming the job was complete and he was asked to transfer £400 into an account in the name of Mr Connor Dashwood. The waste was dumped either that night or early the next morning.

TVBC invited Mr Dashwood, 27, of Carlisle Road, Southampton, to an interview under caution on 7 July 2022, which he failed to attend.

On 11 October 2022, the council issued a legal notice requiring him to assist with the fly-tipping investigation, but Mr Dashwood did not respond.

On Monday 13 February at Southampton Magistrates' Court, Dashwood pleaded guilty to failing to respond to the legal notice. He was ordered to pay a £100 fine, £40 victim surcharge and £100 costs.

## Family art sessions

**Tuesday 4th & Thursday 6th April**

Chapel Art Studios are holding some free family art sessions this Easter half term!

There are two sessions happening on both days:

- **10am to 12pm - book via <https://www.chapelartsstudios.co.uk>**
- **1pm to 3pm - no booking needed**

Family art sessions art



**EASTER**  
FAMILY ART SESSIONS

Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th April

**10am - 12pm** - please book via our website  
**1pm - 3pm** - drop-in, no booking needed

Chapel Arts Studios, Andover SP10 1DP  
[www.chapelartsstudios.co.uk](http://www.chapelartsstudios.co.uk)

**FREE**  
CHOOSE ONE  
OR COME TO  
THEM ALL



   

## CONTACT



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