

# Borough Councillor Report

## Cllr Maureen Flood and Cllr Susanne Hasselmann

### January 2026

#### Happy New Year

Maureen and I would like to wish you all a very happy new year. We hope that this year will be a fruitful one for our communities and that we can make the Borough Council's final few months a great success for our communities.

Thank you to everyone who has completed the survey for the Local Government Reorganisation. We will keep you updated as and when we hear any news.

The Draft 19 Local Development Plan (this is the final draft) will be issued later this year and we will maintain close links with you all throughout.

#### Man given suspended prison sentence for fly-tipping tyres on road in Test Valley

A man has been sentenced after dumping tyres on Station Road in Nursling.

On 28 October 2024 covert cameras captured a vehicle stopping at a layby on Station Road. The footage showed the rear doors opening and six tyres, including a tractor tyre and one from a heavy goods vehicle, being dumped across the carriageway, posing a serious risk to other road users.

Following a vehicle registration check, officers were led to Nigel Cross, 59, from Southampton.

Mr Cross appeared at Southampton Magistrates' Court on 27 November 2025, where he pleaded guilty. He received a four-month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, and was ordered to complete 200 hours of unpaid work. Cross must also pay £877.50 in costs and a £154 victim surcharge, totalling £1,031.50.

Councillor David Drew, Portfolio holder for Recycling and Environmental Services at Test Valley Borough Council, said: "Not only does a fly-tip like this blight our communities, but it also puts people at serious risk and is completely irresponsible. It is lucky nobody got hurt on this occasion. I'm delighted with this result, and we'll continue to work hard to tackle this behaviour and hold offenders to account."

Residents can report fly-tipping to the council online at [www.testvalley.gov.uk/fly-tipping](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/fly-tipping).

## Test Valley Borough Council praised for strong leadership and approach to transformation in peer team progress review

Test Valley Borough Council has been given a clean bill of health and praised for its strong leadership and approach to transformation in a follow-up to its Local Government Association peer review that took place in 2024.

A corporate peer challenge team made up of senior cross-party councillors and experienced officers visited TVBC in November 2024, spending a week undertaking a comprehensive review of key finance, performance and governance information across its services, as well as speaking to more than 100 people including staff, councillors and external partners.

They described TVBC as a “high-performing council that delivers effectively for its residents, with a commendable community-first approach and a strong sense of pride throughout the organisation.”

They also put forward nine recommendations, which included building on the success of councillors working well in their communities, using performance and data to help improve and evaluate the impact and value for residents, and investing in its workforce.

Two peer team representatives returned in October 2025 to undertake a progress check. In their update report, which is available at [www.testvalley.gov.uk/CorporatePeerChallenge](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/CorporatePeerChallenge), they said that positive progress had been made against each of the recommendations. They highlighted the council’s strategic leadership, positive approach to change, particularly in the context of local government reorganisation, and strong community engagement.

## Free Christmas tree drop-off points across Test Valley

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) is once again making it easy to recycle real Christmas trees once the festive season is over.

From Saturday 27 December 2025 to Monday 12 January 2026, free collection points will be open across the borough. Simply bring an undecorated, real tree to one of the sites listed below, and the local authority will take care of the rest.

The trees will be treated like garden waste and taken for composting.

The drop-off locations are:

- Enham Arch Retail Park, Andover
- Dobbies Garden Centre, Andover
- Hillier Garden Centre, Weyhill
- Augusta Park Community Centre, Andover

- Alma Road Car Park, Romsey
- Knightwood Leisure Centre, Valley Park
- B&Q, Nursling
- West Wellow Village Hall
- Hillier Garden Centre, Braishfield

These sites are for real Christmas trees only. Please follow the instructions at each location and place the tree in the designated area.

If residents are signed up to TVBC's kerbside garden waste collection service, their tree can be put out alongside their green bin or sack when collections restart in the new year. Only trees taller than six feet should be cut in half.

For more details, visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk/waste](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/waste).

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