

TVBC Borough Councillor Report

Cllr Maureen Flood and Cllr Susanne Hasselmann

October 2026

Southern Water – Public Meeting – 22 October 2026

After the wettest winter on record in 2025 and the sewer flooding emergency that saw the return of tankers to our villages, Southern Water are holding an open community event to explained what happened, what they have learnt from the emergency and what they have been doing to prepare for this coming winter.

The session will be held at Thruxton Memorial Hall, Village Street, Thruxton, Andover SP11 8LZ between 18:30 and 20:30 on Thursday 22 October.

Please come along to put your questions and concerns to Southern Water.

Hedge Coppicing at Broad Lane, Monxton/Abbotts Ann

Further to reported hedge coppicing and alleged hedge removal around Broad Lane in Monxton in spring 2026 and subsequent discussions with the estate, Test Valley Borough Council officers have been out to check on the re-growth of the hedge plants this autumn. There are some areas that require thickening out with new planting and some remedial weed removal and this work will therefore be monitored by the Council going forward.

Upper Clatford Evri Delivery Issues

Over the last few months there have been a substantial number of complaints about Evri deliveries in the Upper Clatford area, including misdelivered and lost parcels, as well as speeding vehicles and parcels that have been thrown out of delivery vans. After several emails to Evri we are pleased to report that they have recognise the importance of permanent couriers who know their area and routes:

“We have used contractors in some parts of Andover and Romsey and have been phasing this out and reducing reliance on these third parties across 2026 due to inconsistent delivery quality. We know areas are best served when they have a permanent courier in place and we have been replacing contractors with couriers.”

We are keen to monitor the situation, so please let us know if you experience continuing problems. Please email the issues and tracking numbers to cllrshasselmann@testvalley.gov.uk.

New local plan 'Gateway' system and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

On 7 September 2026 the Government paused Local Government Reorganisation. The impact of this is wide reaching and includes:

- There will no longer be elections to the Mid Hampshire Unitary Authority in May 2027. Instead, new elections for Test Valley Borough Council are now being scheduled without clarity about when Local Government Reorganisation will commence, and if it does, whether the decision on boundaries around a Mid Hampshire Unitary Authority would remain.
- The Local Plan decision made by the Council on 22 July 2027 stands and the Borough Council will continue the Local Plan process under the new 'gateway' system. The decision to switch to the new gateway system was the cumulation of a series of factors beyond the Council's control, which made the process of producing a sound local plan under the 'legacy' plan-system, by the Government's deadline, unachievable.
- Parish Councils will now return to 4 yearly elections (not the 5 year term as envisaged for LGR).

Queen Elizabeth II sculpture unveiled at Romsey Abbey

A new life-size bronze sculpture of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has been unveiled at Romsey Abbey, marking the completion of Test Valley Borough Council's Queen Elizabeth II sculpture project, launched as part of the late monarch's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The unveiling ceremony took place on 4 September and was attended by residents, community representatives and invited guests.

Created by Hampshire sculptor Amy Goodman, one of our resident artists at Project Workshop in Quarley, the sculpture depicts Queen Elizabeth II at the time of her coronation and has been shaped by stories, memories and artwork contributed by local residents and schoolchildren through an extensive community engagement programme. It follows the installation of a companion sculpture in Andover in 2024.

Successful prosecution follows Clatford fly-tipping investigation

A successful investigation by Test Valley Borough Council has led to two men being prosecuted for a fly-tipping offence near Upper Clatford. Aidan Molumby and Adam Heaver appeared before Basingstoke Magistrates' Court on 4 September after admitting illegally dumping a large concrete block in Watery Lane, Clatford, in January 2025.

Council officers discovered the waste during a routine inspection and used CCTV footage and further enquiries to identify those responsible. Both men later admitted the offence during interviews under caution.

The court ordered the pair to pay a combined total of £2,866.

Test Valley Community Resilience Forum save the date

The next Test Valley Community Resilience Forum will take place at Longstock Village Hall, SO20 6DT on Saturday 17 October 2026. The normal 'resilience' breakfast of sausage/bacon rolls will be on offer from 9.45am with the session beginning at 10am.

In light of this year's Summer and an outlook for Winter ahead, the main focuses of this session will be:

- A reflection on the wildfires across Test Valley and the New Forest, taking the time to understand the risks and impacts fires can have on communities and the mitigations which can be put in place.
- Scene setting for the predicted wet Winter ahead with El Niño conditions, and what precautions communities can take in preparation.
- An update on the work of Community Resilience in TVBC's Test, Learn and Grow programme.

The session should conclude by 12:30pm.

Please RSVP to communityresilience@testvalley.gov.uk if you are able to make it, along with any dietary requirements you may have.

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