

North Baddesley Borough Report 2017

Housing development remains the predominant issue for North Baddesley. 2016 saw a challenge to the Test Valley Borough Council's Revised Local Plan, which specifies the location of housing, industrial, commercial and leisure development until 2029, but it was defeated. This is now the guidance document that the council will use when determining applications.

The outline application for 300 homes at Hoe Lane North Baddesley has been placed and is currently being considered by officers. Consultants and 58 residents have made their comments on the proposal. HCC highways have made objections and this will delay the proposal coming to the committee whilst further discussions take place. If the application is given permission at the Southern Area Planning committee, a detailed, full application will be placed with TVBC, probably towards the end of 2017.

This is always going to be a controversial application, as indeed most development proposals for more housing, are. The aim now must be to try to balance a development that does not unduly impact upon existing residents and importantly does not overwhelm the present facilities. Air pollution is now a factor for consideration and highway officers will need to attempt to direct as much traffic as possible to travel down towards the A3057. Presently the traffic flows on the A27 Botley Road/ Nutburn Road signalised junction, is forecast to be over capacity in both peaks and under all scenarios. There is a lot to be taken into consideration.

The development of 48 homes at Nutburn Meadows and 40 homes at Baddesley Close have now been completed. These have provided some smaller units for first time buyers and a percentage of housing association units, 10 units at Nutburn Meadows and 11 units at Baddesley Close.

At Baddesley Close, I negotiated with Charles Church, the developers and the previous owner/ developers Burtons, to honour an original agreement that they would make up the roadway throughout both the existing and new roads. I have also made representation to TVBC regarding the landscaping. Presently it is not in a condition that the Borough Council could adopt.

A development of Solar panels has been erected on a field along the Botley Road in the gap between North Baddesley and Halterworth. Ward Borough Councillors supported the application because the solar farm will protect these fields from the threat of further housing and provide renewable energy for next 25 years.

North Baddesley Infant & Junior Schools are undergoing major extensions in order to provide the much needed extra school places for primary age children for present and future needs. This should now be able to accommodate the pressures of increased housing within the area. County Councillor Alan Dowden obtained almost £5 million for these school improvements to take place.

Hampshire County Council and Test Valley Borough Council have been working together to refine Romsey town centre to make it more accessible to pedestrians and cyclists, reduce traffic speeds and make the area more attractive for all who live, work and shop there. The enhancements will be at Church Street, Bell Street and the Market Place.

Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council are aiming to get as near as practically possible to a position where 100% of residential and business premises in Test Valley have access to Superfast Broadband (24Mbps)

Test Valley Borough Council is offering a number of apprenticeship opportunities for anyone looking to kick-start their career while they study for a recognized qualification. The authority has joined forces with the Hampshire Apprentice Partnership to provide a career path for people who also wish to study part-time. Test Valley Borough Council is currently offering opportunities for apprenticeships at the Council in a wide range of services including Finance, Human Resources, Housing and Environmental Health, Revenues and Customer Services.

A boundary review is taking place across the country. TVBC have been asked to submit a review of the number of overall councillors and also to reorganize the boundaries of wards to accommodate the changes.

The Ward Borough councillors have awarded grants to the 15th North Baddesley Scout group, the Parish Council, the Village Hall and the Friendship Circle.

I am a member of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The role of the committee is to:

- Review Cabinet decisions and hold them to account.
- Comment on most of the draft policy and strategic documents
- Review the performance of Council departments and makes recommendations to Cabinet on how efficiency and effectiveness can be enhanced
- Comment on reports from external agencies

OSCOM has a suggestion scheme to encourage members of the public to bring forward ideas for future reviews. The suggestion form is available on the Council's web site.

National government has reduced the rate support grant. Test Valley Borough Council has raised the council tax for 2016/17, by 3.8%, well above inflation. This is equal to £5 on a Band D property.

Cllr Celia Dowden

TVBC North Baddesley Ward