

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

Cllrs Alison Johnston, Ian Jeffrey, and Tony Ward

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Tree Planting

During December there have been numerous tree planting events held by the countryside officers to work towards the goal of planting 10,000 trees over the winter period. In addition to this, planting trees and hedges is also a crucial method of habitat creation for many species.

On Saturday the 11th of December TARCA were out at Anton lakes planting whips (small trees). The aim of this event was to create a hedge along the border of Anton lakes. The whips planted consisted of a mixture of Hawthorn, Hazel, Blackthorn, Guelder rose and Oak to create a vast species diversity. 15 volunteers successfully managed to plant a total of 600 trees along a 150m stretch.

On Sunday the 12th of December friends of the parks headed out to Valley Park to plant trees in the woods. The Hazel and Hawthorn trees were planted to replace those felled in recent coppicing works. The event saw a total of 18 volunteers who successfully planted 400 trees.

On Tuesday the 7th of December the countryside team held a tree planting event at Harewood common to finish off the planting from employee volunteers and TARCA. The team were joined by members of TARCA and the community and leisure team who managed to plant 500 trees. Overall, last week there was a grand total of 1,500 trees planted, which is an amazing outcome.

The next volunteer tasks are as follows:

Saturday 8th January at Ox Drove meadows - sycamore coppicing and kidney vetch planting (10am to 2pm)

Saturday 8th January at Tadburn Meadows - scrub clearance (10am to 12pm)



Community car changes made permanent after Covid-19

A grant change for those using their vehicles to help the community has been made permanent after a change came in following the Covid-19 pandemic last spring.

At a cabinet meeting this week, Test Valley Borough Council’s portfolio holders made an amendment to allow more flexibility to the Community Car Scheme that is in place across Test Valley. During the pandemic, as part of the authority’s emergency response, car schemes were permitted to also claim from their grant for journeys used to assist people who were shielding or isolating. Now, that alteration has been made permanent, meaning claims can be made for transport where the passenger is unable to make that journey themselves, but with the purpose of their travels to collect items, such as prescriptions, on their behalf. The change will come into place as of January next year.

Transport portfolio holder, councillor Nick Adams-King, said: “Last spring was an immensely challenging time for our communities, but, as we have said many times, the shining light was how everybody came together. The Community Car Scheme is a great example of that collective spirit, and it’s only right that we make this change a permanent one.

“This will benefit those who went out of their way, and continue to do so, for those who need assistance. It’s a very commendable act and I’m pleased that this change sees them fairly compensated for their efforts.

Platinum jubilee plans in Test Valley

Two new inspiring pieces of public art in Andover and Romsey alongside a number of events are set to commemorate Her Majesty The Queen’s platinum jubilee next year in Test Valley.

To commemorate this, and the Royal Family’s connections to the borough, new artwork is being considered by Test Valley Borough Council for locations in both Romsey and Andover, with artists across the country being invited to apply. Funding for the artwork will come from the council’s New Homes Bonus. Those pieces of public art will be joined by several local initiatives and events, which will be supported by TVBC. In addition, the authority is also aiming to waive the fee for those applying for a temporary road closure to hold street parties celebrating the jubilee.

DIARY	JANUARY 2022
4	Broughton PC
6	East Dean PC
	Over Wallop PC
6	Democracy and Governance Service briefing
7	TVBV Planning site visit
10	King’s Somborne PC
10	Nether Wallop PC
	Local Plan Briefing
10	Longstock PC
	moved to 7 February
10	TVBC Budget Panel
11	TVBC Southern Area Planning Committee
11	East Dean PC
11	Houghton PC
12	TVBC Cabinet
17	Lockerley PC
17	TVBC Local Plan Briefing
17	Ward Councillors Liaison
19	TVBC Overview & Scrutiny
20	Stockbridge PC
24	TVBC Local Plan Briefing
26	TVBC Council



Partnership continues as vaccinations ramp up

Vaccinations at Andover's Chantry Centre are continuing to push on thanks to the Primary Care Network, alongside support from Test Valley Borough Council.

The authority is continuing its partnership work with the NHS teams providing boosters and vaccinations at the centre. Today, the council's waste collection teams are lending a hand in the collection and transport of the clinical waste generated by the clinic to ensure the efficacy of the vaccinations can continue at pace.

Due to the Omicron variant of Covid-19, more jabs are being provided to the public, with the Chantry Centre's clinic also listed on the national database, meaning those not registered with GPs around the area can still use the centre for their booster.

By the end of December, the Andover vaccination team will have provided 100,000 vaccinations to our local residents. In order to achieve this, capacity, and appointments have been increased by 100 per cent over the last two weeks.

Previously, the council has been supporting the PCN by hosting the initial vaccination centre at The Lights. With the venue re-opening as a theatre, TVBC then offered an alternative location in the Chantry Centre,

The PCN vaccination, said: "In line with the government's challenge to complete the booster programme in record time, we have massively increased capacity from last week to this week. We are proud and delighted to say we have achieved this with no queues and no fuss thanks to you, our patients, booking the available vaccination appointments.

"Next week, we have planned further clinics, increasing capacity by another 50 per cent so that we can continue to protect you, your friends and neighbours. Please spread the word and help by booking your booster appointment. Let's make 2022 the year we beat COVID."

Guildhall lights up for National Grief Awareness Week

Andover Guildhall turned orange on Wednesday 8 December to mark the end of National Grief Awareness Week.

At 6pm, Test Valley Borough Council lit up the historic building to help raise awareness of grief and bereavement. It joined landmarks up and down the country, each stood in unison bathed in an orange hue.

Led by the Good Grief Trust, the national campaign, which ran from 2 to 8 December, aims to encourage people to talk more about bereavement and death and, crucially, highlights how those affected can access support.

More information about the campaign can be found at www.thegoodgrieftrust.org/ngaw/

Support available for homeless this winter



The leader of Test Valley Borough Council has reiterated the authority's commitment that nobody needs to sleep on the streets this Christmas.

Councillor Phil North is issuing the reminder this winter in that anybody who is experiencing homelessness will not leave the council's offices without first being made an offer of accommodation. He is also reminding residents of the assistance and care on offer from charities around the borough and the rounded help they can provide.

Councillor North said: "This can be an incredibly difficult time of year for some, and that's why I want to take this opportunity to reiterate our dedication and commitment to anyone who is experiencing homelessness or sleeping rough at the moment."

"As the temperatures drop, it really can be a tough period. Which is why we proactively go out and engage with people we think are rough sleeping as well as responding positively to those who seek help from us. Unfortunately, offers of accommodation aren't always accepted but we keep trying through our investment in outreach services.

"This time of year, many people out of the goodness of their hearts, also want to help the less-fortunate. There are various housing charities and support networks in place in Andover and Romsey, such as Two Saints and Bridge House, who would be most grateful to receive any help over the winter period."

Housing and environmental health portfolio holder, councillor Tracey Tasker, added: "For many years we have been focusing on the importance of getting to know the individuals who come to us for help, and their situation. This includes building trust with people on the street such that they might accept help to come inside. Many organisations work with us to ensure the next steps are successful ones.

"While we continue to work as hard as we can to ensure nobody has to face a night on the streets, I would also urge residents wishing to help, to make sure they do so in the best way possible. Sometimes, giving to people directly on the streets can frustrate the efforts being made by local services to persuade people to come inside - especially if they're experiencing drug or alcohol addictions. The ultimate message though is that there is help and accommodation available to ensure no-one needs to sleep rough this Christmas."

Please remember that anyone concerned about their housing situation can contact the council's housing service on 01264 368000 (Andover) or 01794 527700 (Romsey). You can also report rough sleeping through [streetlink.org.uk](https://www.streetlink.org.uk) and we will proactively go out and speak to the individuals and offer accommodation

Councillor Community Grant Scheme

Yet another reminder of this small but effective enabling grant scheme as can be seen from the examples of awarded grants on the right.

Each year, Mid-Test Borough Councillors use the Councillor Community Grant Scheme to fund fantastic local projects within the Mid-Test Ward to help communities achieve their aims. This funding can be used to support community led initiatives for the benefit of your local area and community.

Grants of up to **£1,000** are available to fund up to two-thirds of the total cost of the project or activity. With applications open to: Voluntary Groups, Parish Councils, Not for Profit Organisations, and Schools in relation to their wider community role.

The Councillor Community Grant can be used towards a huge variety of projects, if community benefit forms the basis of its aims. If you work with or know of a local community group or project which could do with some funding, please get in touch!

Since the start of the pandemic, many groups, communities, and residents have had to change the way they run or the way they support one another. Funding could be used to:

- Organising an event for residents and bring communities back together
- Enhancing a local community facility or shared space for residents or community groups to come together
- To fund a local project or ambition, e.g., initiatives around climate change

For more information and to apply online please head to our website: www.testvalley.gov.uk/CCG but any questions at all contact us the Mid Test Councillors or our Community Engagement Officer Imogen Colley at :-

icolley@testvalley.gov.uk

Some recent examples of grants in Mid Test

- Kings Somborne Village Hall were awarded £312 towards essential running costs towards the IT Café
- Broughton Parish Council were awarded £900 towards a defibrillator for the village
- Stockbridge Parish Council £1000 towards the purchasing of new notice boards for the High Street

The Importance of the Parish Magazines

In this age of email, texts, tweets, and social media its easy to forget not everyone wants or has access to electronic communication. That's where Parish Magazines really come into their own. Often hand delivered to every residence they are vital sources of local information and importantly they are trusted.

Even with Covid they managed to continue in some form or other. They rely entirely on volunteers to write, produce, and deliver them. They deserve everyone's thanks for the dedication and enthusiasm needed to give us this invaluable community service - thank you.

If we have missed someone out please let us know.

Parish	Deadline	Contact
Kings Somborne, Little Somborne + Ashley	15 th of the month	thegauntletmag@hotmail.com
Lockerley, East Tytherley, East Dean, West Tytherley, Frenchmoor, Buckholt	15 th of the month	newsletter@lockerley.org.uk
Mottisfont	20 th of the month	acornnews@mandercom.co.uk
Stockbridge, Longstock + Leckford	15 th of the month	editorsstockmag@gmail.com .
Broughton	17 th of the month	broughtonnews@hotmail.co.uk
Houghton		houghtonvillagenews@gmail.com
Longstock + Leckford	12 th of the month	longstockvillagenewsletter@gmail.com
Wallops	15 th of the month	editorwallopsnews@gmail.com

CONTACT



Cllr Alison Johnston

01794 500610

cllrajohnston@testvalley.gov.uk



Cllr Ian

Jeffrey

01794 388872

07883 597339

cllrijeffrey@testvalley.gov.uk



Cllr Tony

Ward

01794 389649

07881 812958

cllrtward@testvalley.gov.uk