

Mid Test Matters

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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School card jubilee design contest!

Schoolchildren across Test Valley will soon begin competing to design the official card that's sent to Her Majesty The Queen to celebrate her platinum jubilee.

Primary schools up and down the borough have been invited to take part in the contest that will see the winning card sent to Her Majesty from the mayor of Test Valley. As first citizen of Test Valley, the mayor's card will be on behalf of all residents in the borough.

This June, a number of events are taking place to mark the 70th anniversary of The Queen's accession to the throne. Street parties, public art installations and tree planting are just some of the activities taking place to commemorate the occasion this summer. The winner of the card competition will be selected by the current mayor, councillor Mark Cooper, and mayor-elect, councillor Alan Dowden, and announced after the Easter holidays.

Councillor Grants for Mid Test

Two more grants have been awarded for community initiatives in Mid Test. King's Somborne will get £900 towards a Summer Fete bringing community organisations together to raise funds for the school. Broughton have been awarded £1000 to help restore vintage signposts to their original condition.

Because of the large number of events being planned for the Platinum Jubilee the Councillor grants will be limited so apply early.

West Dean and West Tytherley Neighbourhood Plan

A major achievement for the community when the West Dean and West Tytherley Neighbourhood Plan 2019 to 2029 was 'made' following the positive referendum on 17 March 2022. The plan forms part of the development plan for the parish and will be used to guide planning decisions in West Dean and West Tytherley. Everyone involved must be congratulated in bringing this to fruition - the amount of work and dedication to complete is a real achievement

The referendum result is as follows:

Response	Votes	Percentage
YES	176	94.1%
NO	11	5.9%
Turnout	26.64%	

The made plan, decision statement and declaration of result can be viewed at: [West Dean and West Tytherley Neighbourhood Plan | Test Valley Borough Council](#)

From the 18 March, the West Dean and West Tytherley Neighbourhood Plan is subject to a six-week period where applications can be made to the High Court on the grounds that the plans are not within the appropriate powers, and/or a procedural requirement has not been complied with. This six-week period of legal challenge ends on 29 April 2022.

Test Valley mentioned in national resilience report

The National Preparedness Commission has this week published its independent review of the 2004 Civil Contingencies Act and its supporting arrangements. The review was prepared by a team of experts in the field, led by Bruce Mann, former Director of the Civil Contingencies Secretariat, and is based on over 300 interviews with people on the front line of emergency response. It makes 117 recommendations and concludes that the Government must learn lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies over the last two decades if UK resilience arrangements are to be made fit for the future.

The report itself refers to Test Valley's community resilience work and a case study on page 101 mentions our community councillor model, the community team and our grant funding. Here is a link to the report:

<https://nationalpreparednesscommission.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/NPC-CCA-Report-FINAL-FOR-PUBLICATION-ON-24-MARCH-2022.pdf>

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Types of Affordable Housing and who provides it.

In our first article on this topic, we showed how affordability was defined and how difficult it was to buy or rent. Now we look at the different types of homes available for people who are unable to meet their housing needs through the general housing market. This includes homes for rent and purchase.

Social Rented Housing

This is subsidised rented housing owned and managed by an Affordable Housing Provider (AHP)(also known as Registered Provider or Housing Association) and allocated through Hampshire Home Choice to eligible households. Rents are typically charged at no more than approximately 60% of market rents.

Affordable Rented

Affordable rented housing is also subsidised housing owned and managed by an AHP and allocated through Hampshire Home Choice to eligible households. Rents are typically up to 80% of open market rent. A large proportion of the new affordable homes being built are let at an Affordable Rent.

Shared Ownership (also known as part buy/part rent)

Shared ownership enables a purchaser to access home ownership through buying an initial share (usually 25% to 75%) * and paying rent on the remaining share. Purchasers can then increase their share later if they choose to. This is known as stair-casing**. In many rural areas where open market values are very high, a shared ownership product is the most likely route for local first-time buyers to access home ownership.

Discounted Market Homes

The Discount Market scheme enables a purchaser to buy a specific property at no more than 80% of market value. Unlike shared ownership there is no rent payable. The discount remains in perpetuity, so when the property is sold the same level of discount is passed onto the next purchaser.

First Homes

First Homes is a new affordable housing product like Discount Market homes. First Homes will be sold at no more than 70% of open market value to qualifying buyers. First Homes are not applicable on rural exception sites, or on any site which is delivering 100% affordable housing.

The main eligibility criteria for all low-cost home ownership products is: -

- First time buyer
- Household income of less than £80,000
- Local connection

*New regulations allow for some shared ownership homes to be sold at a share of as little as 10% of the open market value.

** In some rural areas the staircasing is restricted to a maximum 80% to ensure that the home remains an affordable home in perpetuity.



Still a few days left to have your say

We have launched our new Local Plan - a document to guide future development in Test Valley.

The plan covers how we aim to grow the potential of our town centres, communities, people and local environment.

Your view matters and we want to hear from you:

- Do you think we've identified the appropriate priorities for Test Valley?
- Will these priorities help to improve the way we live, travel, work and enjoy our borough?
- Do you think these priorities will protect the environment and help tackle the climate emergency?

The consultation closes on 8 April 2022.

Great Crested Newts survey



Countryside Officers visited the Abbotswood Nature Reserve on Wednesday evening (23/03/2022) to survey for Great Crested Newts. 126 Great Crested Newts were found within 5 of the ponds on site!

A very successful survey confirming they are potentially at the peak of the breeding season.

Chantry Centre pop-up market

The next Chantry Centre pop-up market will take place on Saturday 2nd April between 9.30am and 4pm.

This month we're making it easier to shop by moving the market stalls into the middle of the Chantry Centre. You will find stalls located in the central areas near to Card Factory, as well as outside Boots and in the 'indoor garden' next to Boswell's Cafe.

This is great opportunity to support local independent businesses. [Click here](#) to see which traders will be attending the April pop-up market.

The French market will be coming to Andover High Street in May.

Authentic French Market

Andover HIGH STREET
Tuesday 17th May &
Wednesday 18th May 9am-5pm

FRANCE AT HOME
www.franceathome.com
fahmarkets@gmail.com

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Prison time for serial fly-tipper

A man has been sentenced to 15 months in prison after fly-tipping asbestos in Romsey that caused a road to be closed off for two days.

Mitchell Cooper, of Hillyfields, Nursling, was given the sentence at Southampton Crown Court on Friday. As well as the time behind bars, he is now subject to a criminal behaviour order for the period of three years.

Just last year, Cooper was fined £20,000 for a series of fly-tips across Romsey and North Baddesley. That sentencing, which totalled more than £23,000 when costs were added on, took place in January 2021. But, just one month prior, Cooper had fly-tipped 3.5 tonnes of hazardous asbestos in the middle of Lee Drove in Romsey, which landed him at crown court on Friday.

The asbestos was dumped within a large green container, tipped off the back of the vehicle that Cooper was driving on 18 December 2020. As well as the hazardous material, car parts and wood were also found strewn across the road.

Cooper had difficulty tipping the truck enough to dump the container into the road, but eventually it was found deposited for around 100m along the road.

All of this was caught on one of the borough council's covert cameras, which are regularly moved to catch people committing waste-related offences.

Specialists then had to be brought in to clear the dangerous waste, closing the road off for two days in the process.

Closure of Andover Covid testing centre

In accordance with the decision made by central government regarding Covid testing, the borough council has been notified that the Covid test centre occupying part of the Shepherds Spring Lane car park will close on the 30 March. The site will be cleared around 7/8 April and hopeful full access should be available shortly after. The council will be arranging for any direction signs to be taken down.

Support for financially pressured families

With the enormous pressure on the cost of living and the fuel crisis many families will be seeking help. We have compiled a list of services available locally that can help. Please if you are contacted or know of anyone in need of help use this list to direct those families to the right place.

Romsey Community Services: <https://rcsservices.org.uk/>

- Fuel Vouchers - can offer vouchers of £25 for pay point meters (not suitable for those on Direct Debit)
- Pantry Vouchers - gives three free shops in Andover, Romsey & Eastleigh
- Winter Warmer Packs - a tote bag of goodies - fleece, scarf, gloves, water bottle, insulated mug, bag of food (all sizes)

Christians Against Poverty (based at the Freedom Church, Romsey): <https://www.freedomchurch.uk/>

CAP offer support with debt and financial management. Call 0800 328 0006 for a telephone appointment. For more info go to their website, a selection of the groups they run are shown below.

- Debt Help
- Job Cubs
- Life Skills
- Money Coaching
- Community Coaching

Lighthouse Project (based at St Marys, Andover): <https://www.stmarysandover.org/lighthouse>

- CAP Job Clubs - Steps to Employment course to help you get into paid work, further training, or work experience
- Employability drop-ins - on-demand support with CV-writing, interview skills, job search, applications, and strengths-finding
- CAP debt help - providing help and support for those struggling with debt
- The Money Course - a short course to help you better manage your money
- Kintsugi Hope - physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing

Citizens Advice (Test Valley) <https://testvalleycab.org.uk/>

Advice line: 08082 787 862

Telephone Call-back on 01264 723641 (Andover) or 01794 522137 (Romsey). Leave a message and a representative will call you back. Please be aware the call back will come up as a withheld number. For more information, please visit their website.

Money Advice Service www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk

Offer support on managing debt and budgeting. Call 0300 500 5000 or visit their website for more information.

Food Support

With multiple locations throughout Test Valley, the local Food Banks can provide food parcels. Vouchers are needed when requesting parcels and can be issued by several local agencies, including Citizens Advice, children's centres and health visitors.

- [Romsey Foodbank](#)
- [Andover Foodbank](#)

Community Pantry's

The principle of the pantry is to give those in need the opportunity to have a 'helping hand' by getting food at a lesser rate on a weekly basis.....

Community Pantry's continued

Items found in the pantry will be a range of fresh, frozen, and general foods. This will change on a weekly basis. The members of the pantry will be charged a nominal sum of £5.00 per shop and receive £15 plus worth of goods. When available each member will also be given additional items free of charge.

Additionally, the Pantry will have a delivery service for those who are not able to come and shop for whatever reason. This service will be charged at the rate of £1.50 for up to 5 miles.

Andover

- Open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 09:30 - 12:00
- Twilight hours: Wednesdays 16:00 - 18:00
- Telephone: 01264 359223
- Email: rcscommunitypantry@gmail.com
- Address: The Longmeadow Centre, Cricketers Way, Andover, SP10 5DE

Romsey

- The Pantry will be open Monday and Fridays from 10am to 2pm all year round.
- Telephone: 01794 522106
- Email: rcscommunitypantry@gmail.com
- Address: No. 7 Dukes Mill, Broadwater Road, Romsey, SO51 8PJ

Mental Health Support and Advice

Andover Mind, Test Valley Well-being Team (Andover & Romsey) - if you're concerned about your mental health and well-being, you can call 01264 332297 or alternatively email well-being@andovermind.org.uk

Romsey Community School provides a range of wellbeing courses online, including moving forward financially, lockdown and beyond and career choices. Please contact: community@romsey.hants.sch.uk for more information.

Hampshire Families Trust offer early intervention support which consists of six weeks therapy. Available to families, children, and young people. Email Flo-hampshire@familycounsellingtrust.org or call 07538 029210

Youth in Romsey - Provide services and support for young people. Please text 07443 508418 or call 01794 500581 to speak to a member of the team. Or visit www.yir.org.uk

ManGang UK - Men are bad at talking about what troubles them, add this to the stigma that surrounds poor mental health and it's no wonder that three quarters of all suicides are by men. ManGang offer weekly peer support meetings both on zoom and face to face where we show that 'It's Not Weak to Speak' find them on Facebook or visit the website www.ManGang.co.uk or email: info@mangang.co.uk.

CONTACT

Tee-rific new adventure golf at Charlton Lakeside

Work has begun on a brand-new adventure golf course at Andover's Charlton Lakeside.

This exciting new facility was approved following feedback from users, residents and visitors to the lakeside. Perfect for all the family to enjoy, the new iron age theme adventure golf course will test your golfing skills across 18 holes!

Adventure golf specialist Greenspan has been appointed to carry out the works, which will now last for 16 weeks, ensuring the facility is open in time for families to enjoy over the summer holidays.

Leader of the council, Phil North, said: "Charlton Lakeside is a one of Test Valley's much-loved green spaces - and I'm delighted that it will now be enhanced even further with this exciting new addition. Offering a great facility for families to have fun and enjoy the outdoors."



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