

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

Cllrs Alison Johnston, Ian Jeffrey, and Tony Ward

Call for Sites - Strategic Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA)

The council will be undertaking a formal Call for Sites exercise commencing on Monday 18 July 2022 for a period of 5 weeks.

The Call for Sites exercise is part of the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) process. The SHELAA is a technical document which will provide information on sites for potential housing, economic development, Gypsy and Travelling Show people, Self-Build housing etc in relation to their suitability, availability and achievability.

The main reason for doing this is to provide an opportunity for sites to be submitted and be included in the SHELAA to inform the preparation of the draft Local Plan 2040. The inclusion of sites in the SHELAA does not imply that the Council would necessarily grant planning permission.

Details of the Call for Sites consultation will be available on the Council's website. Parish Councils will be made aware of the consultation for their information.

This exercise runs parallel to the Call for Green Project Sites

The closing date for submission is noon Monday 22nd August 2022

Have your say

The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) and College of Policing have recently started consulting on a new race plan aimed at addressing race disparities affecting Black people and changing a legacy of distrust.

Along with the NPCC and CoP, Hampshire Police are keen to hear from anyone with an interest in this area, including anti-racist organisations, community groups, and members of the public. The survey in the link below offers respondents the opportunity to contribute views that will shape the Police Race Action Plan and its ongoing implementation. <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PlanFeedback/>

A link to the national plan can be found at <https://www.college.police.uk/article/police-race-action-plan-published>

Court Success!

We have had more success in court recently:

An Andover man spent two nights in custody and was ordered to pay a fine of £320, a victim surcharge of £34 and costs of £250 after he pleaded guilty to fly tipping a carpet and wooden flooring, garden items and other household waste along Green Drove, Upper Enham, in April 2021.

A Southampton woman was ordered to pay a fine of £350, a victim surcharge of £35 and costs of £700 for failing to attend an interview with the Council in order to assist with a fly tip investigation. Waste including fridges, a washing machine, mattresses, toys, clothing, cushions and other household items was found in Lee Lane, Romsey in February 2021.

A Romsey man was ordered to pay a fine of £1000, a victim surcharge of £100 and costs of £572.88 after he pleaded guilty to failing to control his waste. In August 2021, he left some timber and paint tins beside a garage on public land and some of the paint was taken by vandals and thrown over the road, pavement and play area.

Coffee business topped up

An Andover coffee shop has been awarded the second instalment of an Independent Retailer Grant from Test Valley Borough Council.

No.78 Specialty Coffee has now received a total of £1000 from the council after opening up shop in an empty unit in Andover last year. Owner Paul Hedges has given the unit an extensive refurbishment, breathing a new lease of life into the space.

Crowds turn out for beggars fair!

Hundreds and hundreds of people turned out in the centre of Romsey last weekend to make the most of the sunshine and the town's annual beggars fair. With music, stalls and other entertainment, it was fantastic to see so many enjoying themselves.

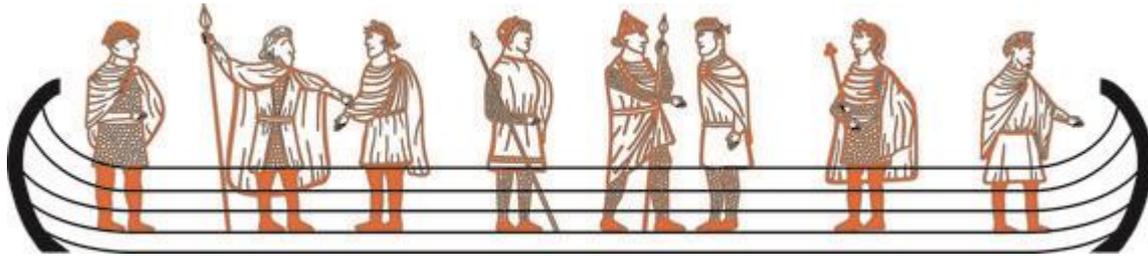
Our environmental service officers were hard at work early in the morning clearing the 'evidence' of a good time had by so many! We were out to make sure the town was ready for the hustle and bustle of the next day, and it was lovely to see the recognition and gratitude for our teams on social media.

Wild trail cameras

Countryside officers recently installed a wild trail camera to look for nature around our reserves. Several video footages were caught of otters and a curious duckling.

Eleven members of Friends of the Parks braved the heat on Sunday to carry out bracken bashing in Tredgoulds copse part of Valley Park Woodlands Local Nature Reserve.

Bracken although native can become invasive and shade out other plants on the woodland floor, the bracken is maintained to ensure that it doesn't become too dominant in the woodland.



Vikings return to Town Mills

Andover is set to welcome eight new Vikings to The Viking Longboat in the River Anton by Town Mills.

The Viking Longboat was commissioned by Test Valley Borough Council to mark the Test Valley in Bloom Millennium celebrations and commemorate the story of Olaf the Viking, whose invasion of the south coast played a significant part in Andover's history.

Now, 22 years on, the council has commissioned a refurbishment by local metal workshop Hurstbourne Forge to install new Viking figures, a mast and a sail. The longboat will also receive a fresh coat of paint.

The new silhouette style Vikings are to be designed in Corten steel and are based on historic characters from coins and artefacts.

Scaffolding around the piece has now been installed and work is expected to be completed by mid-August.

3 Steps to Help Drive Down Motoring Costs

Did you know that small changes to how you drive, when added together, can lead to a big reduction in your fuel costs? Here are 3 money-saving steps:

1. Ensure your car is as efficient as possible:

- a. Check your tyres regularly. Worn or underinflated tyres can increase fuel consumption by up to 3%
- b. Lighten the load. Remove roof racks and boxes when not in use. They cause considerable drag, which uses more fuel.
- c. Don't leave the windows wide open when driving at speed. This also creates drag.
- d. Air conditioning uses much more fuel than people realise. Avoid using it when you can.

2. Be a savvy shopper:

- a. Shop around for fuel. The most expensive fuel is often at motorway service stations. Visit www.petrolprices.com to help you get the best local deal.
- b. Get rewarded for buying fuel e.g., Tesco Clubcard points or Nectar points etc.

3. Be conscious of how you drive:

- a. Drive as smoothly as possible. Easing off the accelerator and brakes can reduce fuel usage by as much as 30%!
- b. Watch your speed. The Energy Saving Trust says that the most efficient driving speed to reduce fuel usage is between 55- 65mph.
- c. Plan ahead to avoid travelling during the most congested times. Stop-start driving is among the most fuel intensive forms of car travel.
- d. If you are motionless for any longer than 10 seconds, it is often more fuel efficient to switch the engine off.

A few small changes can save you money and help the environment too! For more information visit: www.moneysavingexpert.com/reclaim/cheaper



Swattons field Ragwort pull

On the 23rd July TVBC and The Anton River Conservation Association headed out to Swattons field to pull the Ragwort from the site.

Ragwort is a highly invasive species, if left unmanaged it would spread and outcompete other native plant species decreasing diversity. The 18 volunteers worked hard to pull 90% of the Ragwort from site leaving 10%, because although highly invasive, Ragwort is a popular source of nectar especially for Cinnabar moths.

Abbotswood Discovery Day

Countryside officers ran a discovery day at Abbotswood housing estate on 24th July, exploring the ponds bordering the nature reserve.

Around 40 people attended the day, dipping in the ponds and getting very excited over some of the finds, such as this Water Stick Insect! These cool little creatures use their 'tail' as a snorkel to breath air as they hide in the undergrowth of the pond, blending in perfectly, waiting to pounce on any prey wandering past.



TVBC was mentioned by Wildflower Turf for boosting our green spaces by encouraging grasses, plants and wildflowers to develop, see the link below.

[Test Valley Borough Council boosts green space - Wildflower Turf](#)



5 August 2022
11am to 3pm Andover High Street

ALL DAY Face Painting
Our Guildhall art project
Italian Pavement Chalking with Urban Canvas
Make door name plates with The Artroom

DON'T MISS IT...

Sports Guides walkabout theatre
11.30am, 12.30pm & 1.30pm

The Hare & The Tortoise with Merry Go Round
11am, 12noon, 2.30pm

Yoga in the Time Ring
11.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm

The Pretty Sure Tour, meet at the Time Ring
1am & 1pm

[www.Facebook.com/FourFunFridays](https://www.facebook.com/FourFunFridays)

Here are the links for bookable activities at Four Fun Fridays

Pretty Sure walkabout theatre tour, 5th, 12th, 26th August

<https://www.thelights.org.uk/whatson?k=pretty+sure+tour&f=&t=>

Planetarium show, 26th:August

<https://www.thelights.org.uk/whatson?k=planetarium&f=&t=>

New season at The Lights

The autumn/winter season has gone live at The Lights, and the new brochure is now available and jam-packed with shows from theatre to comedy to dance to speakers to children's shows.

Check out great music from bands such as Rob Heron & the Teapad Orchestra, Oas-is, local group Torn Off Strips and Tango Calor. Enjoy theatre with Hound of the Baskervilles, Pygmalion, Great Expectations (The Pantaloon's way!) and More Christmas Ghost Stories. Ballet Theatre UK are back with Beauty and the Beast, and there is a smorgasbord of comedy from Suzi Ruffell, Seann Walsh, Hal Cruttenden and lots more.

The full programme is also available to view online: www.thelights.org.uk



Riverside Picnics & Yoga

Picnics in Riverside Park, every Mon - Thurs, 25th July - 25th August 12pm - 2pm:

The council will be extending the summer fun this year by running daily picnics in the park from 12pm to 2pm.

Families will have the opportunity to bring along a picnic to Riverside Park every Monday to Thursday from 25 July until 25 August, and make use of picnic blankets and enjoy playing garden games. Every week the council will also be providing an additional activity for free, including:

- Wednesday 27th July: Family yoga (for children and adults)
- Wednesday 3rd August: Family yoga (for children and adults)
- Wednesday 10th August: Crafts (making leaf mobiles)
- Wednesday 17th August: Crafts (making pop-up books)

Wednesday 24th August: Storytelling with Merry-Go-Round

Romsey's flood scheme completes

The project run by the Environment Agency to help boost Romsey's flood defences has been officially opened after an event last Friday.

The works along the River Test to reduce the risk of fluvial flooding include earth embankments, temporary barriers, a flow control structure across Fishlake stream, penstocks and a new bridge and spillway along the Causeway.

The project officially became operational last autumn thanks to funding from various organisations, including £300,000 from TVBC. As part of the event on Friday, a plaque was unveiled by Romsey and Southampton North MP, Caroline Nokes, with a speech from Mayor of Test Valley, councillor Alan Dowden.

Corporate Plan consultation

There are only around three weeks left for the Corporate Plan consultation this summer. More than 1,200 people of all ages from across the borough have had their say on what's important to them in Test Valley, with the closing date set for the 21st of August.

As well as filling out the survey online, residents and visitors have been speaking to officers in schools and at events since the launch in May. Three events remain over the next few weeks, starting with Four Fun Fridays on the 5th of August, followed by Trout n About in Stockbridge on the 7th August, before the third week of Four Fun Fridays on the 19th August. Staff will be attending, with councillors encouraged to share the survey among their networks and welcome to attend the events to speak to residents and get as many to complete a survey as possible.

A link to the digital version of the survey can be found via www.testvalley.gov.uk/corporateplan2023

Tourism update

The Visit Test Valley website is now live <https://www.visittestvalley.org> it showcases our tourism leaflets online and has a blog feature.

Picnics and yoga in the park

Riverside Picnics continue every Monday to Thursday 12pm 2pm, families are invited to bring along a picnic and enjoy free garden games.

We ran Family Yoga this week and will be running more free yoga sessions next Wednesday 3rd August, 12:30pm and 1:15pm just behind Town Mills.



Need help with funding applications?

Every community organisation knows it is getting harder to find money to keep providing services to the community.

Unity can help you with your funding applications, [click here for more information](#)



CONTACT



Cllr Alison Johnston

01794 500610

cllrajohnston@testvalley.gov.uk



Cllr Ian Jeffrey

07859955327

1794 388872

cllrieffrey@testvalley.gov.uk



Cllr Tony Ward

01794 389649

07881 812958

cllrtward@testvalley.gov.uk

