

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

Cllrs Alison Johnston, Ian Jeffrey, and Tony Ward

## **Final call for council tax energy rebate**

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) is urging anyone who is eligible who has not already received their £150 council tax energy rebate or a letter about how to claim it, to get in touch by Friday 9 September.

Over the past few months, the council has been working to get the £150 government grant out to thousands of households in council tax bands A to D across the borough

The council has already paid the rebate to all eligible households where they have bank details on file.

It has also written to households where it does not have bank details with instructions on what to do.

Anyone who thinks they are eligible and has not received a rebate payment or a letter requesting their bank details, should contact the council immediately by calling 01264 368000 or 01794 527700 and selecting option one. Alternatively, residents can go online at [www.testvalley.gov.uk/ContactRevenues](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/ContactRevenues)

Households can check if they are eligible by visiting [www.testvalley.gov.uk/energybillsrebate](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/energybillsrebate)

Leader of TVBC, Councillor Phil North, said: "Our council tax teams have worked incredibly hard to get the rebate payments out as quickly as possible. We would urge households to get in touch with us straight away if they are eligible and haven't yet heard from us. And if you have received a letter, then please follow the instructions and send us the information requested as soon as you can, so you don't miss the deadline."

Anyone who enquires about their eligibility or submits their bank details after Friday 9 September, may not receive the £150 payment.

# Why Community Energy?

Members of 'Transition Town Romsey' invite you to an  
Open Meeting to discuss setting up a

## Test Valley Community Energy Group

On: Thursday, 8th September, 2022

At: The Crosfield Hall Annexe, Romsey  
SO51 8GL

7.15pm for 7.30pm start

- Speakers from TTR & Community Energy South
- Learn how Community Energy schemes work
- Hear how a Community Energy Group would work in Test Valley
- Find out how you can get involved
- Your questions answered
- Coffee & Cake
- Free Parking



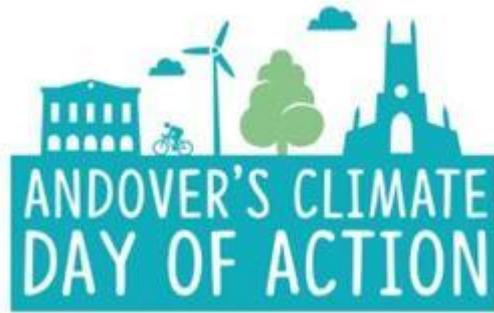
Web: [transitiontownromsey.weebly.com](http://transitiontownromsey.weebly.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/TransitionTownRomsey](https://facebook.com/TransitionTownRomsey)

Email: [transitiontownromseyweebly@gmail.com](mailto:transitiontownromseyweebly@gmail.com)

**ALL WELCOME**





## Andover's Climate Day of Action to return

Andover's Climate Day of Action is to return later this year to bring the town together to help tackle climate change.

Last year, community partnership Andover Vision launched the inaugural day of action, working alongside community groups, schools and businesses to get residents to pledge actions that could protect our environment and reduce their carbon footprint.

Now, the day will return later this year, on September 30. However, the day will be running alongside The Great Big Green Week (GBGW), which is a national event organised by environmental organisation The Climate Coalition. The GBGW is running from September 24 until October 2, meaning residents will have a week to showcase their pledges and actions on protecting our environment.

The week will launch on Saturday 24 September with an indoor market and Great Big Green Pop Up Shop in The Chantry Centre, which will feature eco themed workshops and activities, talks and information stalls.

On September 30, the main day will feature schools, businesses in the town and wider organisations carrying out environmental activities, while encouraging individuals to play their part.

Residents are being encouraged to pledge actions that could help towards reducing their carbon footprint, protect our environment and help tackle climate change. From cycling to work once a week, checking home insulation and composting more food waste, every single action contributes, with people up and down the country doing their bit alongside the Great Big Green Week.

Actions can then be shared as inspiration for others on social media using the hashtag #andoverclimateaction. A participant pack full of ideas and suggestions will be available on the Andover Vision website closer to the time, via [www.andovervision.org](http://www.andovervision.org) as well as through [www.greatbiggreenweek.com](http://www.greatbiggreenweek.com)

Chair of Andover Vision, councillor Phil North, said: "Last year was a huge success in bringing the town together in one shared goal; we need to do all we can to protect our environment.

"I'm extremely grateful for the support of Andover Vision's partners, including Transition Towns, Andover Trees United and various others in helping to organise this week, which will culminate in the day itself on September 30. For families and visitors to the town on Saturday 1 October, the event in the town centre should be fantastic for gaining inspiration, ideas and fun activities that can be done at home to help towards that shared ambition."



## Green Flag awarded to three parks in Test Valley

Test Valley Borough Council is proud to announce yet another year of Green Flag awards for War Memorial Park, Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve and Valley Park Woodlands.

This coveted award has now been consistently presented to all three parks for more than a decade, recognising the quality and value that these well-managed spaces bring to the community.

The council thoroughly plans green space management to enable sustainable, long-term investment to maximise the way spaces are used and enjoyed. By working with local communities to plan facilities to meet the needs of local people, TVBC helps to ensure ecology and the conservation of the natural environment.

Portfolio holder for countryside and climate, councillor Alison Johnston said: "Test Valley Borough Council is committed to providing quality green spaces, to provide places for fun, recreation, health and high-quality space for the borough's wildlife.

"By virtue, our space should be benefiting both wildlife and people. These awards acknowledge that, which is wonderful."

Portfolio holder for community and leisure, councillor David Drew said: "Free to access parks and green spaces is so important. These areas provide a sanctuary for communities to experience nature, exercise, and togetherness.

"High quality, well-managed green spaces are a vital part of healthy sustainable communities. They are an essential aspect of everyday life that communities feel passionately about. Thanks to the hard work of council officers, to which these awards are a testament."

TVBC owns and manages over 400 hectares of land which is categorised as green space.

## Solar Together Hampshire - Round 2

Registration for a second round of Solar Together Hampshire will be opening on 22 August and will run until 27 September (inclusive).

Solar Together Hampshire is a group buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage for residents and small to medium enterprises. The intention is that through a group buying approach it is possible to access better prices for customers than they may achieve on their own.

Hampshire County Council is working with iChoosr who will be delivering this scheme. Test Valley Borough Council will be helping to promote the availability of the scheme through our social media platforms. There are also going to be letters and leaflets delivered to targeted households across the county (likely to be received in early September by the relevant households).

Details about how the scheme works and how to register will be available at the below link:

[Group-buying for solar | Hampshire County Council \(solartogether.co.uk\)](https://solartogether.co.uk)

While we will be raising awareness that the scheme is available, we are not specifically endorsing the scheme or any supplier selected to deliver the solar panels or battery storage equipment. It will be for each individual to take their own view on the scheme. The selection of the suppliers is undertaken by iChoosr - neither Test Valley Borough Council or Hampshire County Council are involved in this. Hampshire County Council has been working with iChoosr to adjust aspects of the process based on experiences from the first round of Solar Together Hampshire.

For more information please contact Solar Together Hampshire via: [Contact | Hampshire County Council \(solartogether.co.uk\)](https://solartogether.co.uk)

## South Western Railway invites community projects to apply for funding

- SWR launches latest round of Customer and Communities Improvement Fund (CCIF)
- CCIF supports small and medium sized projects that address social need or benefit communities across the SWR network
- Successful projects can be completed in one year from April 2023

South Western Railway is pleased to announce that we are now inviting bids and proposals for the next round of our Customer and Communities Improvement Fund (CCIF).

CCIF is intended to support small and medium-sized community projects which can be completed over the course of the year. In previous rounds of funding, we have supported more than 70 projects with a value of over £6 million across our network, assisting important local causes and initiatives and delivering extensive social value and benefit.

We would welcome bids from grassroot or neighbourhood groups, local authorities (i.e. parish or town councils, borough councils, county councils), elected representatives, civic societies, charities, sports teams, social clubs, or any other organisation with a great idea for how CCIF may be able to help their community. Applications for this new round of funding can be made for projects which will be started and completed between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. The closing date for bids is 23.59 on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

You can apply now using an easy to follow application form, supported by a guidance booklet available on <https://www.southwesternrailway.com/ccif>



## **New creative hub in Romsey set to sparkle with a council grant**

Forest and Cove, a new creative hub in Romsey, has secured a £1,200 Independent Retailer Grant from Test Valley Borough Council.

Rebecca Barley is setting up a creative hub at 17 Bell Street, comprising of an art gallery, studio space and jewellery displays, together with offering creative classes, such as jewellery-making.

Rebecca, who is a goldsmith by trade, said: "I am keen to create a community hub for people to explore art and jewellery-making. The grant from Test Valley Borough Council is a huge boost to help get up and running."

Local ward member, councillor Daas, who presented the cheque to Rebecca, added: "I wish Rebecca all the best with the creative hub, what a fantastic addition to Romsey town centre. The grant scheme is a great opportunity for new local businesses."

As part of the council's strategy to support Andover and Romsey town centres, the Independent Retailer Grant is available to encourage new independently owned retailers to take up vacant space. As part of the council's strategy to support Andover and Romsey town centres,

These funds have become available to the community because of the council's prudent investments, financial management and the use of the New Homes Bonus.

For more information about the council's grant schemes, visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk)

## **Draft Statement of Community Involvement in Planning (SCI) 2022**

The Council has published for public consultation its draft Statement of Community Involvement in Planning (SCI) 2022. The purpose of the SCI is to set out the consultation measures that the Council will undertake when consulting on planning policy documents and publicising planning applications.

The SCI complements the Council's broader commitment contained within its Corporate Plan with regards to promoting positive community engagement with local communities, businesses, and interest groups. The preparation of an SCI is a legal requirement and once adopted, the Council needs to be consistent with its content.

The Council adopted its first SCI in August 2006. The Council has previously reviewed and updated the SCI on three occasions (December 2009 and September 2013 and December 2017) to consider of changes within planning legislation. An addendum to the 2017 SCI was also approved in June 2020 to enable the council to temporarily undertake revised consultation methods, to apply whilst coronavirus restrictions were in place.

As the current 2017 SCI will reach its five-year anniversary of its adoption at the end of 2022, a review has been undertaken and an updated draft SCI published for public consultation for an 8 week period Friday 2 September - 12noon Friday 28 October 2022.

Hard copies of the document are available for viewing purposes at the Council Offices in Andover and Romsey.

How to Comment:

You can respond by sending comments in writing via email or post. Please see contact details below:

Planning Policy & Economic Development Service

Test Valley Borough Council

Beech Hurst

Weyhill Road

Andover

SP10 3AJ

Email: [planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk)

Please make sure your comments reach us by 12noon on Friday 28 October 2022.



**Ganger Farm**  
*Sports Park*

# *Opening event*

**Monday 12 September**

TVBC are officially opening Ganger Farm Sports Park on Monday 12th September. We are hoping clubs, friends and family will join us to celebrate this occasion from 4.30pm till late.

Local Sports clubs will be hosting sessions and opportunities for visitors to try taster sessions. Clubs will be providing demonstrations, and information on how to join.



# Ganger Farm Sports Park

**6pm to 6.15pm**

**Building opening -**

**Attended by the Mayor, Leader of the Council**

**Photograph with Club representatives,  
Mayor, and Councillors**

**Introduction from Cllr David Drew**

**Speech on behalf of the Developer**

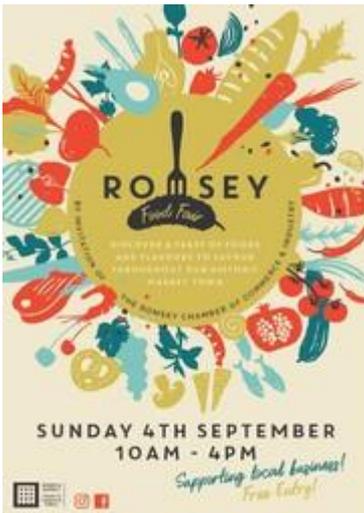
**Opening of the building - Ribbon cutting**

*External Taster Sessions and drop in 'Give it a go' on offer from*

4.30 to 6pm	Rugby Football Artificial Pitch	Braishfield Bees and Romsey Town Youth FC
4.30 to 6pm	Hockey Artificial Pitch	Romsey Hockey Club
6 to 6.15pm	Official Opening	
6.15pm	Open Space	Romsey Road Runners and Park Run
6.15 to 8pm	Grass Football Pitch	Romsey Town Youth FC
6.15 to 9.30pm	Rugby Football Artificial Pitch	Romsey Rugby Club
6.15 to 9.30pm	Hockey Artificial Pitch	Romsey Hockey Club

*Internal Taster Sessions on offer from*

6 to 6.15pm	Official Opening	
6.15 to 8pm	Community Room	Meet the clubs Open to the public
6.15 to 7pm	Studio	Yoga
7 to 7.45pm	Studio	Yoga
7.45 to 8.30pm	Studio	Pilates
8.30 to 9.15pm	Studio	Pilates



## Romsey Food Fair

After two years the Romsey Food Fair returns on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September from 10am to 4pm, showcasing local and regional exquisite food and drink suppliers.

The Romsey Food Fair promises to fill Romsey's historic market town with tasty quality produce, artisan stalls, delicious mouth-watering street food, tastings, together with outstanding brewers and distillers.

The event is organised by Romsey Chamber of Commerce & Industry, a local business network with members from Romsey and surrounding areas. It is owned and managed by local businesses whose goal is to protect and promote business interests and the general prosperity of the community.

## CONTACT



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