

# 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

## Cost of Living Grant Scheme update

We reported on this scheme last month and organisations have already applied but still time for others to have a go. Here are the latest applications. If you know a not-for-profit organisation or group who would be interested in the **Cost of Living Grant**, please contact the Mid Test Community Engagement Officer to confirm the eligibility of the organisation and project:

[www.testvalley.gov.uk/CEOfficers](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/CEOfficers) For more information about the Test Valley Borough Council

**Cost of Living Grant** visit: [www.testvalley.gov.uk/costoflivinggrantscheme](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/costoflivinggrantscheme)

Round	Organisation	Project	Award value
1 24/10/22 3 awards £3,000	Harrow Way Community School	Breakfast Club	£1,000
	Romsey Cancer Support Centre – Jane Scarth House	Warm Space energy costs	£1,000
	Freedom Centre – Community Hub	Warm Space energy costs	£1,000
2 31/10/22 4 awards £6,585	The Mountbatten School	Winter Breakfast Project	£585
	The Royal British Legion - Romsey	Warm Hub	£1,000
	Citizen's Advice Test Valley	Caseworker	£2,500*
	Andover Foodbank	Caseworker	£2,500*
3 08/11/22 3 awards £4,400	Yellow Brick Road Projects	A Warm Welcome to YBRP	£1,000
	Smannell Field School	Breakfast Club	£1,000
	St Mary's Church	Debt & money management support	£2,400
4 16/11/22 5 awards £5,220	The Mark Way School	Warm Winter Packs	£1,000
	Baby Necessities	Bed Poverty Campaign	£1,000
	Romsey Library – Hampshire County Council	Chat About Sessions	£720
	Unity	Cost of Living Support Outreach	£1,500
	Youth Options	Winter Essentials	£1,000
5 23/11/22 1 award £2,000	Romsey Community Services Ltd	Christmas Cracker 2022 Project – providing fresh fruit, vegetables and meat to individuals and families	£2,000
<b>Total awarded to date</b>			<b>£21,205</b>

For more information, including external funding opportunities, please visit the Test Valley Borough Council [Cost of Living Support Hub](#).

## Five Year Housing Land Supply (HLS) Update 2022

The updated HLS figures for as at 1 April 2022 have now been finalised. These are stated separately for the two housing market areas within the Borough: Northern Test Valley (NTV) and Southern Test Valley (STV). Figures in brackets are last year's as at April 2021. The target is to have at least 5.00 years.

- NTV 5.71 years (5.72 years 2021)
- STV 6.83 years (7.18 years 2021)

Total completions during 2021/22 were 854 (879 2019/20): NTV 528 (542), STV 326 (337).

As with last year's 2021 calculation, the figures also include Use Class C2 self-contained accommodation (such as those providing supported living or extra care), in addition to Use Class C3 dwellings, as these are included within the private household population used to determine the adopted Local Plan housing need requirement.

The updated HLS figures will be published on our website by early December within an updated Housing Implementation Strategy (which sets out the Council's approach to managing housing delivery, focusing on the HLS position).

They will also be included within the Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) for 2021/22 which is due to be considered by OSCOM at its meeting on 14 December, and which will be published on our website before Christmas.

## Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week

Many households are at an increased risk of carbon monoxide poisoning this winter as people look for ways to save on heating and cooking costs. [Find out more.](#)



## Town Mills welcomes alder tree in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



An alder tree in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her 70-year reign, has taken up residence at its new home in Town Mills Riverside Park.

The tree was donated to Purple Oak Support from the Queen's Green Canopy 'Tree of Trees' sculpture, which stood tall as a message of hope, regeneration and optimism to the nation and the world as part of the Platinum Jubilee weekend celebrations.

Representatives from Purple Oak Support, Lady Louisa Portal and local councillors attended a small ceremony on 10 November 2022 to plant the tree and create a lasting reminder of the Queen's unwavering service to the country and the legacy she leaves.

## 2023 Parliamentary Boundaries Review - Revised Proposals published

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has recently published its revised proposals for new constituency boundaries. The proposals and maps for the nine English regions have been published on their website at <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/>. Representations already made as part of the review are provided, along with the BCE's rationale for any decisions they have made on those representations.

The four-week public consultation period on these revised proposals has now commenced and closes on 5 December 2022. This will be the final chance for the public to give the Commission their views on the proposals. [More information](#)

## More than £95,000 awarded to Test Valley organisations through SSEN Resilient Communities Fund

Residents across Test Valley are set to benefit after 10 local organisations received a total of more than £95,000 from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks' Resilient Communities Fund.

- **Many parish councils were given funding for things like generators**
- **It comes following a Community Resilience Forum held in Test Valley**
- **The fund is likely to reopen next year**

Earlier this year, a Test Valley Resilience Forum meeting was held for parish councils and community groups to learn more about the fund, how they could bid for the money and guidance on how to draft their applications.

Ten parish councils and organisations have now each received a share of the fund to help them prepare for emergencies.

Chilworth Parish Council were awarded £7,000 for a village hall generator, while Broughton Parish Council are getting £20,000 for generators and other power equipment.

Elsewhere, Charlton Parish Council have got £4,695 for a portable generator and South West Hampshire RAYNET were awarded £4,673.76 for communications equipment.

The rest of the funding was awarded to:

- Wherwell Parish Council - £2,614.52 for a generator, heater and cooking equipment
- Longparish Parish Council - £18,994.50 for a generator for a community hub
- West Tytherley, Frenchmoor & Buckholt Parish Council - £20,000 for generators and other equipment
- Braishfield Parish Council - £9,687.80 for generators and other equipment
- Quarley Parish Council - £5,000 for a generator and other equipment
- CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) - £2,539.88 for training material and presentation equipment

The Test Valley Resilience Forum was established in 2014 to encourage more communities in the Borough to think about how they could prepare themselves for major incidents such as flooding. The forum brings together various different agencies, including charities and parish councils.

It is an opportunity for the different groups to learn from one another and has had a significant impact on the number of communities engaged in local resilience in the area.



## **Bournemouth man found guilty for second time in relation to Test Valley fly-tip**

A man from Bournemouth has been found guilty of failing to assist with a fly-tipping investigation for a second time after he challenged the first prosecution.

Jack Fairbairn of Wakely Road, Bournemouth, had been found guilty in February, but returned to Southampton Magistrates' Court on 4 November for a second hearing.

In May 2021, Test Valley Borough Council received several reports of a fly-tip on Giles Lane, near Plaitford, of up to 200 fire extinguishers, horse manure and wood shavings.

A member of the public had seen a vehicle loaded with fire extinguishers travelling up the road, and later saw the same vehicle exiting a track empty. A second report also identified an identical vehicle in the vicinity loaded with extinguishers.

TVBC contacted Mr Fairbairn, who was the registered keeper of the vehicle, and asked him to attend an interview under caution on 21 May 2021. The defendant contacted the council to say that he had sold the vehicle four months prior but was only able to produce a hand written note containing a non-existent address.

The authority later issued a notice requiring the defendant to attend the council offices on 6 September 2022 to assist with the fly-tipping investigation, but they did not receive a response.

He was fined £120.00 and ordered to pay a £48.00 victim surcharge and £921.50 in costs.

## Test Valley Mayor sends Poppies to Paddington



Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Alan Dowden, was up bright and early on 11 November to meet a very special train at Romsey Station as part of Great Western Railway's (GWR) Poppies to Paddington initiative.

The Test Valley wreath was taken to London to join hundreds of other wreaths from across the country at the war memorial on platform one at Paddington Station.

## Andover school children planting the seeds of new project at Bury Hill



Around 1,000 children from schools across Andover and surrounding villages are taking part in tree planting over the next three weeks to mark the start of a project to officially open a new green space, just south of Bury Hill.

- **It's going on for the next three weeks**
- **Around 1,000 children are taking part**
- **They're working towards an official opening next year**

Test Valley Borough Council purchased the land, near Upper Clatford, using money secured from developer contributions to help improve access to the countryside.

The aim is to create a space for the public to enjoy, with an official opening in 2023.

As development gets underway, the school children will help plant over 1,000 trees as part of a small woodland creation at the bottom of the site



Local independent businesses in Andover will be getting an opportunity to show off their crafts as another indoor pop-up market is being held at the beginning of December in the Chantry Centre. It's open 9:30am until 4pm, with stalls dotted all around the centre. In the south of the borough there is the Lockerley and East Dean Christmas Fayre also on the 3 December from 10am to 2pm in the Memorial Hall.

Then, on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 December, Stockbridge Town Hall will be transformed into its own little market. The Makers Market is back for two days between 10am and 4pm. Also on Sunday 11 December, Second Sundays is back in Andover's High Street for the last time in 2022.

As some people will still be looking around for the perfect gifts to buy for their friends and family, there is a chance to do some last-minute shopping a week before the big day. On Sunday 18 December the Hampshire Farmers Market is back in Romsey from 10am to 1pm. It's being held in Alma Road Car Park, opposite Waitrose. ([www.hampshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk](http://www.hampshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk))

**Market dates and locations:**

- Saturday 3 December - Pop up market, The Chantry Centre, Andover
- Saturday 3 December - Christmas Fayre, Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall
- Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 December - Makers Market, Stockbridge Town Hall
- Sunday 11 December - Second Sundays, Andover
- Sunday 18 December - Artisan Market, Andover High Street
- Sunday 18 December - Hampshire Farmers Market, Alma Road Car Park, Romsey

## Sustainable Warmth campaign

The Sustainable Warmth campaign has adverts on three of our refuse trucks from next week. The campaign runs until 31 December. The Sustainable Warmth Fund (SWF) government funding is there to deliver home energy efficiency improvements, such as; Insulation, Low Carbon Heating and Solar PV. Grant funding is available under this scheme for households that have a gross annual income of less than £30,000 or are in receipt of an eligible benefit. Your home must also have an energy efficiency rating of D, E, F or G. The link to apply is [www.hampshire-applications.co.uk](http://www.hampshire-applications.co.uk)

Please do share the posts on TVBC social media to amplify the message. Or you can post your own message and [use this digital asset](#).

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

The Council is undertaking public consultation on its updated draft Statement of Community Involvement in Planning (SCI), as approved by Cabinet on 3 August 2022. Consultation will commence on Friday 11 November, 2022 for a period of 5 weeks ending 12noon Friday 16 December 2022.

We are repeating the public consultation process as we became aware that not all consultees received notification of the original consultation. Representations made on the SCI received during the original consultation do not need to be resubmitted. They will be retained and considered in finalising the final document.

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 has had an SCI since 2006, previously reviewed and updated in 2009, 2013 and 2017, plus an addendum was also approved in June 2020 to take account of the temporary changes to consultation methods necessitated by coronavirus restrictions. As the current 2017 SCI will reach its five year anniversary of adoption at the end of 2022, a review has been undertaken and an updated draft SCI published for public consultation.

The draft version of the document will be available to view of the Council website:

[www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy)

If you require a hard copy of the draft SCI document please contact the Planning Policy Team.

Parish Councils will be made aware of the consultation for their information.

For further information, please contact Planning Policy on [planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk) or 01264 368000

## New Chief Constable recruited at Hampshire and Isle of Wight's Constabulary

Scott Chilton has been recruited as the new Chief Constable for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary; he will start his new post at the end of February 2023. [Find out more.](#)

## Hedge laying



On Saturday 19 November we had 20 volunteers from TARCA out at Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve to conduct hedge laying.

Hedge laying is the creation of live hedges from pre-existing trees. The trees are cut and bent at the base, then laid down to form a hedge. Stakes and binders are used to hold the hedge in place. Over time, the trees will continue to grow and will be re-laid in the future. The

traditional skill of hedge laying produces hedgerows which are an important habitat and food source for wildlife. TARCA will be back out on the 4 December at Rooksbury Mill to work on this further.

## Tadburn Meadows Local Nature Reserve



Tadburn Conservation Volunteers attended their last volunteer session of the year on the 12 November. Lucky for them the weather was beautiful after days of rain, as they carried out a bramble and ditch clearance task at Tadburn Meadows Local Nature Reserve.

The 12 volunteers worked hard to clear bramble and leaves clogging up a drainage ditch that is intended to stop flooding on site.

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