



Test Valley News

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ANDOVER VISION

The Council, community groups and residents across Andover re-launched the Andover Vision initiative earlier this year to create a long-term vision for the town. This exciting new project revolves around Andover's community and will create a 20 year plan to help raise aspiration and ambition across the town.

Andover Vision began with a 10-year plan back in 2005, which delivered a number of projects in the town including a cinema, The Lights theatre and the Junior Graduation ceremonies. The Vision was a success; it met its aims and objectives and now is the perfect time to renew the ambitions for the next 20 years. During the past few months, Andover Vision has been consulting with residents, community groups and organisations to find out their hopes and aspirations for the town and to discuss how we can work together to achieve them.

In April 2016, approximately 70 people attended the Andover Vision re-launch community event, and contributed their ideas and thoughts on the big issues

that a new vision should consider. Following this event, six themed working groups have met over the summer months looking at subjects such as: raising aspirations; vibrant community; High Street and town centre; jobs, business and enterprise; green spaces and the environment, and good health. The outcomes from the working groups have since formed the basis of a number of public consultation events across the town.

Residents may remember seeing the Andover Vision team at the town's carnival earlier this year. More than 250 local people visited the stall in Vigo Road Recreation Ground to share their thoughts on the Vision's themes as well as their hopes for the future of the town. Andover Vision also teamed up with the Council's Four Fun Fridays project, which took place every Friday in August in the High Street, to speak to even more people about the themes. So far, more than 1,000 people have given their views and ideas through the various activities and events. A new Vision is expected to be launched in April 2017.



If you would like to get involved in shaping the Andover Vision, or wish to find out more about it, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/andovervision or contact us by emailing andovervision@testvalley.gov.uk.

ROMSEY FUTURE PARTNERSHIP



LAUNCHES VISION DOCUMENT FOR THE TOWN



Romsey Future has launched a new document setting out the vision for Romsey for the next 20 years.

The partnership collated the numerous ideas it gathered from extensive public consultation, and launched its first vision document at Crosfield Hall in June this year. The vision document sets out exciting new ambitions, including increasing tourism in the town, improving walking and cycling facilities, managing infrastructure, developing flood defences, enhancing health and wellbeing opportunities and encouraging community involvement in planning policies.

The Romsey Future partnership is made up of representatives from local community groups and organisations from across the town. Since the partnership launched back in November 2013, residents have voted on projects and spoken to members of working groups to share their ideas.

Romsey Future has already achieved

many of its short-term aims. For example, the partnership helped to secure a government grant of £10,000 to set up the Romsey Rendezvous community café. The café is a popular amenity which offers information, support and advice to local residents. The partnership has also enabled the town to host a Teenage Market where young local people can trade, and supported Test Valley Borough Council to adopt Fishlake Meadows as a nature reserve for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Councillor Martin Hatley, who has been coordinating the Romsey Future project, said: *"Romsey Future is now at a really exciting stage. We've carried out extensive consultation and we've written the vision based on what local people want for the town. I am looking forward to continuing the great work undertaken so far."*

Romsey Future will host an exhibition of its achievements at Romsey Town Hall on Saturday, 26 November. Visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/romseyfuture to download a copy of the Romsey Future vision document and view details of forthcoming events. If you would like to get involved in the project, please email romseyfuture@testvalley.gov.uk.

New arch unveiled for **George Yard**

The first Andover arch, which will signpost shoppers to the businesses located off the High Street, was unveiled by Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Karen Hamilton, on 31 August.

Local businesses, councillors and Council staff gathered to watch the official opening of the new George Yard arch, which has been designed by renowned artist, Peter Clutterbuck.

The idea to enhance signage for the shops along the seven lanes off the High Street came from feedback from the Andover Summit and Encounters initiative, which aimed to rejuvenate the town centre and increase footfall. This work now continues through the renewed Andover Vision. The remaining six arches are planned for Union Street, Waterloo Court, Shaw's Walk, Globe Yard, King's Yard and Black Swan Yard.

Peter's previous work includes the War Memorial Park gate and town entrance sign in Hedge End, the bandstand in Southsea and Falklands memorial arch in Fareham, as well as a wide range of other projects.



Peter said: "We have thoroughly enjoyed working on this project and look forward to starting work on the remaining arches. It is great when you finally get to see pieces finished and in place."

Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Carr, said: "I am delighted that the first Andover arch is now in place. We are really lucky to have some fantastic businesses located just off the High Street and the new arches will help to signpost people to them. I would like to thank Peter Clutterbuck and his team, the local businesses and all those involved in the arches project for their hard work to deliver this first arch at George Yard."

Green Flag Awards for **Test Valley parks**

Romsey War Memorial Park, Valley Park Woodlands Local Nature Reserve in Chandler's Ford and Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve in Andover have scooped prestigious Green Flag Awards again this year, confirming that they are some of the very best outside spaces in the UK.

Romsey War Memorial Park has now won an impressive nine consecutive Green Flag Awards. Rooksbury Mill has won the award for eight consecutive years, while the announcement

confirms that Valley Park Woodlands can celebrate its seventh consecutive success.

The park and local nature reserves are among a record-breaking 1,686 parks and green spaces that received a prestigious Green Flag Award this year. The award recognises and rewards the best parks and green spaces across the country. A green flag or sign is a symbol to the public that the space boasts the highest possible standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent facilities.

Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder, Councillor Tony Ward, said: "We are delighted that our parks have received the Green Flag Awards again. The awards are testament to the hard work that goes into the upkeep of the areas. I'm really pleased that residents and visitors can enjoy such fantastic green spaces in Test Valley."

Fun in the forest



Test Valley Borough Council's 16th Community Woodfair took place on Saturday, 3 September at Zionhill Copse Local Nature Reserve, Chandler's Ford.

More than 1,100 visitors watched a whole host of fantastic demonstrations, from falconry and chainsaw artistry to woodland crafts. The event was a great opportunity to celebrate nature and take part in conservation activities, bush craft and much more.

Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder, Councillor Tony Ward, said: "The Woodfair is always such a great event and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate nature and the traditions, trades and tales that have been inspired by it."



I 
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A romantic house and gallery set in beautiful gardens beside the River Test, with a year round events programme to suit all the family.

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The Twelve Days of Christmas
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A step back in time



Andover has a long and fascinating history, but how much do local people really know about their town?

Test Valley Borough Council has added an extra dimension to Andover's heritage by re-launching its Heritage Trail. Residents and visitors are now able to step back in time and re-live the town's history by reading and listening to facts about the area's historic places of interest.

Actors from the Theatre of Dark Encounters brought the trail to life on four days in August by dressing in period costumes and sharing stories about how England's peace with the Vikings was secured, how a scandal

in the town's workhouse led to the reform of the Poor Laws and how the arrival of the railways affected people living and working in the town. Soon, school children will enjoy learning about Andover's history by taking part in interactive workshops inspired by elements of the trail.

If you'd like to learn more about Andover's history by following the trail, visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/heritagetrail to download the leaflet and audio guide.

The Heritage Trail re-launch was made possible thanks to a Heritage Lottery Grant and a partnership between Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire Cultural Trust.

Save time, go online!

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving the way we deliver Council services, we are continuing to increase the number of online facilities that are available to our residents.

From reporting environmental matters in your local area to making an online payment, you can now contact us at a time to suit you. You can report fly-tipped material, request a visit from the Council's Clean Team to tidy your street or even tell us if there's a faulty piece

of equipment in one of our play parks. You can also attach photos and videos to your reports and pinpoint your exact location using the mapping software.

You'll be able to report a missed bin collection, subscribe to our garden waste service and much more! As a registered customer, we will keep you up to date with the progress of your report and we will let you know when the issue has been resolved. You will be able to log in at any time to check the status of your report.

If you use an Apple, Android or Windows device, visit your app store to download the free MyTestValley app and explore the wide range of online facilities that are available. Visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/mytestvalley for more details.

Art in Abbotswood



Earlier this year, Deputy Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Carl Borg-Neal, officially unveiled the new artwork along Romsey Canal.

The new sculptures, benches, stepping stones and story-telling panels, designed by local artist Nicola Henshaw, create a sense of community to help connect the Abbotswood development to existing communities in Romsey. Nicola created the artwork

after gathering inspiration from residents at a series of community events where local people shared their memories of the area and ideas for the art displays. The trail enhances the walk along the canal and gives people places to sit and reflect on the stunning environment.

The trail creates a fun and interesting walk along the canal, so why not pop down to see the art yourself?



2016: 66% achieved A*-C in English and Mathematics GCSEs
2015: Top 50 Most Improved School in England

Harrow Way is widely acknowledged as a very successful school dedicated to the achievement and well-being of all of its students.



We are a Mathematics and Computing Specialist School as well as being recognised by the National Arts Council with their prestigious Artsmark Gold Award. In addition we have been awarded a Bronze Award with the Teacher Development Trust and hold Healthy School, Unicef Rights Respecting School, Secondary Geography Quality Mark 2014 status and are a member of the Network of Teaching Excellence in Computer Science.

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Poppy and Lily win drawing competition



Thank you very much to all of the children who entered our Recycling Stars drawing competition earlier this year. Our judges said it was tough to choose the winners!

Approximately 500 school children from across the borough entered the competition to design a vehicle banner

to encourage people to recycle more. Poppy Evans from North Baddesley Junior School and Lily Jones from Endeavour Primary School were the two winners. They were both delighted to see their designs displayed on a waste collection vehicle. We hope Poppy and Lily enjoy their family trip to the Hawk Conservancy!

Calling all artists!

Are you inspired by Poppy and Lily's story? We're now inviting all of the borough's primary school children to draw a picture that encourages

everyone to recycle their glass bottles and jars. The winning designs will be displayed on one of our waste collection vehicles. For more information about the competition, visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/competition.

 Don't forget to like our Facebook page so you can receive all the latest hints, tips and competition details. Visit www.facebook.com/recyclingstars.

What has Recycling Star been up to this summer?

Recycling Star attended both the Andover and Romsey carnivals this year and helped to raise awareness about the importance of recycling.

Recycling Star also launched our summer Facebook competition at the carnivals, which saw three families win tickets to Paultons Park.

In August, Recycling Star worked hard to remind everyone to recycle their drinks containers. With some fantastic weather during the summer, we were pleased to see that our Local Recycling Centres were filled with cartons, bottles and jars.



More opportunities to recycle your glass

This year we opened two new Local Recycling Centres in the borough at the Royal British Legion Club, Ibthorpe, and the Plough Inn, Longparish. We now have more glass recycling centres than ever before, so it's really easy to pop your empty drinks bottles and jars in a recycling bank near you.

Visit www.recyclenow.com/local-recycling to find your nearest facility.

Leading the way in animal welfare

Test Valley Borough Council has achieved another Gold Stray Dog Footprint award!

The Council has won the prestigious RSPCA award every year since the scheme launched in 2008. The award celebrates good practice and recognises exceptional standards of animal welfare.

Our Animal Welfare Officer delivers

a number of initiatives to promote responsible dog ownership, including educating current and prospective dog owners on best practice, collecting and arranging temporary care for stray dogs and carrying out home visits to assess potential dog re-homers. Earlier this year, dog owners across the borough took advantage of our microchipping clinics ahead of the introduction of the new law which now makes microchipping your dog a legal requirement.

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Sparkle Days

The Council's Sparkle Day team continues to visit different parts of the borough to make sure everything is looking spick and span! The team sweeps roads, trims hedges and clears litter to give the area an extra sparkle.

If you would like to see where the team is heading next, or wish to request a Sparkle Day for your local area, simply visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/love for more details.



Household waste - your duty of care

Did you know? Householders are required by law to check that anyone removing waste from their property is authorised to do so. The most common requirement is the waste carriers licence, which is usually needed for building and allied trades, landscape gardeners, tree fellers and surgeons, house clearers and scrap metal dealers.

Social media is a popular way to advertise waste removal services, so if you choose a private contractor you've seen online, we recommend the following:

- Ensure that they are a registered waste carrier. It is also a good idea to make a note of the contractor's waste carrier number. If they claim to be registered but do not have any paperwork, you can telephone

the Environment Agency on 03708 506506, or visit the Environment Agency website, to request an instant waste carrier validation check. If you find that your contractor is not registered, you should refuse their service.

- Check where your contractor is proposing to take your waste.
- Make a note of the registration number of any vehicle removing waste from your home.
- Pay by cheque if you can. This means that payments can be traced if the waste is fly-tipped. If your contractor insists on cash, you should refuse their service.
- Request a receipt for the work carried out.

You could be fined up to £5,000 if your waste has been fly-tipped, even if you think an authorised carrier has disposed of your waste. Please take reasonable measures to ensure that your waste is disposed of responsibly.

Will your house be warm and cosy this winter?

Keeping your home warm and your family healthy can be expensive and sometimes difficult, but Hampshire's Hitting the Cold Spots team will help you to keep warm at home and reduce your energy bills.

Now in its sixth year, Hitting the Cold Spots offers practical advice and details of local services that can help vulnerable residents manage the cost of their heating.

The scheme is delivered in partnership with Hampshire County Council and has helped hundreds of vulnerable people to access affordable warmth.

Hitting the Cold spots advisors can provide information about accessing funding, boiler repairs and replacements and emergency heating. They can also visit residents in their homes to assess their needs.

For more information about the scheme, call **0800 804 8601** or visit www.hants.gov.uk/cold-spots.

Are your details up to date?

Test Valley Borough Council wrote to all households in August to ask homeowners to check whether the information that appears on the electoral register regarding residents living at that address is correct. The canvass ensures that the electoral register is up to date so that people don't miss out on their right to vote. Please visit www.householdresponse.com/testvalley, to make changes or to confirm there are no changes, or phone 0800 197 9871 for confirmation of no change only. You will need the two-part security code printed on your letter to access these services. If you no longer have this code, or you have any queries about registering to vote, please contact the Council on **01264 368000** as soon as possible.

Ringbourne Copse makes it to the finals



The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) selected a Test Valley housing development as a finalist in the Sustainable Buildings category of its Countryside Awards.

Ringbourne Copse in Barton Stacey consists of 19 dwellings, seven of which are affordable homes. The builders, Bargate Homes, used natural products, such as oak, for the window frames and doors, and installed energy-saving

lighting systems, water-saving devices, compost bins and other facilities in the homes to encourage sustainable living.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire announced the winner at the Countryside Awards ceremony on 15 September and although Ringbourne Copse didn't take the top spot, the project received lots of positive feedback from the judges and other finalists.

Looking for respite care, short breaks or rehabilitation stays?

The Cedar Park Apartments, situated in Enham Alamein, are available for customers who require care and support for a short period of time.

Prices from £65 per night

To book a stay or make a referral, please contact us with more details:

www.enhamtrust.org.uk/respice

0845 1307 504

residentialcare@enhamtrust.org.uk



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Are you throwing away money?



The average family could save around £700 per year on their food bill - here are some useful tips to help you get started



For more info go to hants.gov.uk/smartliving

Smart Living is Hampshire's waste prevention and lifestyle initiative.



Check the date

The Use By date is the only date consumers need to stick to.



Store food correctly

Store apples in the fridge, potatoes in a cool dark place and bread in the cupboard or freezer. Ensure your fridge is 5 degrees or less and your freezer is -18 degrees.



Control your portions

Did you know the perfect uncooked portion of spaghetti for one adult is roughly the same size as a penny.

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Reducing food waste

All Hampshire councils, including Test Valley Borough Council, have signed up to the Courtauld Commitment, which aims to reduce food waste by 20 per cent by 2025.

Wasting food which could have been consumed costs the average family £60 a month. We want to help residents reduce their food waste and save money.

Vegetables, salad, fruit and bakery items such as bread and cakes get wasted the most. The handy tips above are just the beginning.

Walk to fitness

Test Valley Borough Council's popular Health Walks provide the perfect opportunity to get active, meet new people and explore new places in Test

Valley. It's easy to join a Health Walk and the exercise will make you feel great!

Visit www.testvalley.gov.uk to find full details about Health Walks starting from Andover, Romsey, Stockbridge and villages across Test Valley.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Since 1 August 2016, new large retail stores and certain types of housing development have been required to pay the Community Infrastructure Levy.

The Levy is a new way of ensuring that developers make financial contributions to infrastructure such as roads, flood defences, schools and local amenities.

The amount of the Levy varies, depending on the site's location, type and size. The Council will give a proportion of the Levy to Parish Councils to spend on local infrastructure.

For more details about the scheme visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/cil

Community Transport Questionnaire

If you'd prefer to complete the survey online, please visit www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TVcommtrans

Hampshire County Council is reviewing how it distributes its budget for community transport across Hampshire.

This may have an impact on services in Test Valley, and as a result we would like to understand the current provision and use of community transport in the borough. By completing and returning this questionnaire, you will help us to manage and minimise the impact of Hampshire County Council's budget decisions.

Test Valley Community Services (TVCS) is the major provider of community transport in Test Valley. The service largely depends on funding from Hampshire County Council but it also receives some funding from Test Valley Borough Council. The service relies on the availability of volunteer drivers. Community transport plays an important role in providing residents with access to services and facilities, helping to reduce social isolation and to maintain independence for many elderly or mobility impaired residents.

Q1. Please provide your home postcode

Q2. How do you travel for essential trips? Please tick all that apply

- Own vehicle
- Rely on family and friends
- Public transport
- Community transport, such as Test Valley Community Services (TVCS)

Q3. What type of trip, if any, do you struggle to get transport for?

- Social (shopping / leisure trips)
- Medical (doctor / dentist / hospital)
- I do not struggle with transport

Q4. Have you ever experienced any of the following?

Please tick all that apply.

- Missed a medical appointment due to lack of transport
- Felt isolated and unable to get out easily

Q5. Do you have access to public transport (for example, the local bus service)?

- Yes
- Yes, but I cannot use it (due to disability or another reason)
- Yes, but it does not travel to the right places
- Yes, but it does not travel at the right times
- No

Q6. Does your community or village have a Dial-a-Ride service?

- Yes, I use it at least once a week
- Yes, I use it less than once a week
- Yes but I do not use it
- No, but I would use it if it was available
- No, and I would not use it if it was available

Q7. If you do not use the Dial-a-Ride service, please tell us why not

Q8. Does your community or village hire one of the group-hire minibuses from TVCS for outings or activities?

- Yes
- No

Q9. Test Valley's community car scheme is not funded by Hampshire County Council and will therefore not be affected by their budget restructure. However, for our own information, does your community or village have a community car scheme?

- Yes, but I do not use it
- Yes, and I use it regularly
- Yes, and I use it infrequently
- No, and I would not use it if there was
- No, but I would use it if there was

Q10. Does your community or village have some facilities you can walk to, for example, a local shop, or services that you can receive at home, such as a mobile hairdresser or food deliveries?

- Yes, both
- Yes, facilities within walking distance
- Yes, services received at home
- No, neither

Q11. Would you like to enquire about volunteering to drive a community minibus or car to assist a neighbour or member of your community to access nearby facilities?

- Yes (please provide us with your name and contact details)

- No

Q12. How has community transport benefited you?

(Perhaps it has helped you see friends more often and therefore feel less isolated, for example).

Please return the completed questionnaire to **Planning Policy and Transport Services, Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 3AJ**. Alternatively, you can complete the survey online at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TVcommtrans.

Data Protection Declaration: All personal information collected through this survey will be treated strictly in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The information will be held on file (either manually or electronically) by Test Valley Borough Council and may be used for purposes that are in connection with this survey. Additionally, information may be provided upon request to other Test Valley Borough Council services for the purposes of the survey.

Business is booming

Test Valley Borough Council's Business Incentive Grant continues to support a variety of entrepreneurs to bring their ideas to life by setting up a new business in the borough. The grant of £750 is intended to contribute towards the cost of starting a new business and since April, we have awarded the grant to more than 30 business owners.

James Dawes, of Dawes Highway, received the Business Incentive Grant earlier this year. His new company is based in Andover and manufactures inflatable safety systems, which are fitted to large vehicles to reduce the impact of road accidents involving vulnerable road users.



James said: "The Council's Business Incentive Grant isn't just about financial support. We have been able to access many opportunities to develop our products and grow professional relationships in the Andover business community. I'd urge anyone who is considering setting up their own business to get in touch with the Council."

Applicants must apply for the grant before they start their new business and the grant will be presented six months later if the business is still going strong. For more information, please visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/business.

Test Valley wins business-friendly awards

Test Valley Borough Council has been named the most business-friendly council in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight for 2016/17.



Neil Eames, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Development Manager for Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, presented the Best Overall Small Business-Friendly Council Award to Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Carr, at a ceremony at Bartley Lodge Hotel, Cadnam, on Thursday, 15 September. Neil also presented Councillor Carr with

the David Ramsden Commemorative Award for Outstanding Commitment to Supporting Small Business, in recognition of the Council's hard work over the eight years the FSB has been running the initiative.

Neil said: "These awards acknowledge councils who are proactively supporting the local micro and small business community. We are delighted to recognise the significant and considerable work undertaken by Test Valley Borough Council and we are keen to help promote such examples of best practice to all councils to help support our local business community. The Federation of Small Businesses looks to the region's local authorities to help create the environment for small businesses to survive and thrive, and we look forward to continuing working with Test Valley Borough Council and other councils to keep this momentum going."

For more information about how the Council supports the local economy, visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/business.

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Andover College opens door to new £3.9m Technology and Future Skills Centre



The doors to Andover College's new multi-million pound Technology and Future Skills Centre are officially open.

The modern building, located in the heart of the College's town centre campus, is fully equipped to provide employers, skilled professionals and those looking to train in the industry with spacious, contemporary workshops, offering the very latest in advanced technical skills for the

construction, motor vehicle and electrical industries.

Test Valley Borough Council assisted Andover College to secure £2.6 million from the M3 Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver the new centre. The Council also contributed £240,000 and was instrumental in facilitating the additional funding from Hampshire County Council to enable the project to go ahead.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Carr, said: *"The new centre is a fantastic facility, which allows the college to offer highly desirable vocational courses. I'm delighted to see that it is now open for students to learn a range of practical skills that will help to meet the local demand for vocational professionals. I wish all future students the best of luck with their studies."*

Andover College Principal Tim Jackson said: *"This facility changes the landscape at the College and changes the landscape of professions training in Andover. There is a skills shortage in these industries and this multi-functional specialist centre, which has been developed in collaboration with local businesses, will ensure we have these essential skills in our local community, contributing to the local economy. I'd like to thank our strategic partners, who share the College's vision of providing young people with advanced technical and practical skills."*

Visit www.andover.ac.uk or phone 01264 360000 for more details.

Ultrafast broadband comes to Andover's business parks

Businesses at Walworth and Portway Business Parks are now able to take advantage of a fantastic opportunity to access high speed broadband at competitive prices.

Test Valley Borough Council is supporting Virgin Media Business to provide the latest technology to the hundreds of businesses that occupy the two Andover business parks.

Having access to high speed internet is vital in today's fast-paced business world. The new opportunity from Virgin Media Business will mean that

companies in a wide range of sectors are able to increase their efficiency and productivity, which will improve their overall performance.

Virgin Media Business is rolling out the service in phases and has confirmed that all businesses based at Walworth and Portway Business Parks will have access to the high speed broadband by the end of the year.

If you'd like to find out more about the project, please contact Test Valley Borough Council on 01264 368000.

Borough's most successful businesses celebrated at Test Valley Business Awards



Now in its 12th year, the Test Valley Business Awards have become a well-established platform to promote business excellence and shine a light on new and small businesses.

The awards, which are organised by a group of volunteers and supported by Test Valley Borough Council, enables small enterprises to gain the recognition and exposure they need to grow.

The 2016 Test Valley Business Awards concluded with a gala dinner and awards ceremony at The Lights, Andover, on 22 September.

Guests enjoyed food and entertainment while they took the opportunity to network, strengthen existing business relationships and form new ones.

Chris Packham, TV presenter and naturalist, was the event's guest speaker and delivered a witty and inspiring after-dinner speech about the importance of supporting the local economy.

The winners of the Test Valley Business Awards were:

Food and Drink Producer of the Year: Betteridge's Brewery

The Brenda Locke Award: Liz Neilson of Fluidity Insurance Consultants Ltd

Innovation and Technology Award: Fresh Relevance Ltd

New Business of the Year Award: Dawes Highway Safety Ltd

Small Business of the Year Award: Lindys Food and Coffee House (Light Lunches Limited)

Doing Business Locally Award: The Weyhill Farm Shop

For more information about the Test Valley Business Awards, please visit www.tvbawards.org.uk.

Grant boost for bridal business

A Romsey retailer has received a £1,000 grant boost from Test Valley Borough Council after taking over an empty shop unit in the town.

Romsey Bridal Boutique, owned by Andrea Wyatt and her business partner Tara Reddish, received the first £500 instalment of the Council's Independent Retailer Grant back in February after moving in to their new premises at 56-58 The Hundred in Romsey last year.

Local ward member, Councillor Clive Collier, presented the second cheque for £500 in August. The store caters

for all tastes and offers a wide range of wedding dresses made from a variety of exquisite materials including luxurious lace and sumptuous silk. The shop also stocks a range of men's wedding attire to make preparing for the big day a little easier.

Recipients of the £1,000 grant receive £500 after three months of trading and a further £500 six months later. To be eligible for the grant, new or existing independent businesses must occupy a town centre ground floor unit which has been vacant for at least one month. Qualifying businesses include shops, restaurants and cafés.

For more information about the Council's Independent Retail Grant, visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/business.

Countdown to Christmas!

The nights are drawing in and that can only mean one thing...the annual Christmas lights switch-on event in Andover High Street! The festivities will take place on Friday, 18 November from 5pm to 7.30pm.

The Big TV screen will once again grace the High Street to make sure that you don't miss anything that is going on, as there will be lots to see! Father Christmas will be stopping by and the stage will play host to a range of local

performers. The Breeze will compère the evening and there will also be rides and attractions, children's face painting and lots of delicious food to keep you warm.

The evening will culminate in the Christmas lights switch on, which will be followed by a grand firework display sponsored by The Chantry Centre.

The event is managed by Test Valley Borough Council and the Christmas tree and lights are provided by Andover Town Council.

Happy 10th birthday to The Lights!

October is a special month for The Lights theatre as it celebrates its tenth anniversary!

Staff at the venue will be celebrating ten years of The Lights by staging a week of back-to-back shows to appeal to all ages from 22 October. The Lights will welcome top comedian, Jon Richardson, to the stage and there will be a lovely afternoon tea dance with Jayne Deer. Talon – The Best of the Eagles – will entertain audiences with iconic music and children can celebrate with The Big Friendly Gigantic Picnic Party and the brand new theatre show, Monstersaurus, from the creators of Aliens Love Underpants.

As well as a range of top class acts, the venue is involved in a number of special anniversary projects including re-energising the landmark sculpture outside The Lights. Malcolm Buchanan-Dick's Light Tree is a striking, eight-metre high feature at the theatre's entrance, which has five screens that display text, pictures or movie clips. The tree's new look will create a strong

sense of place by playing videos that represent different ideas of what The Lights means to different people. Cass Productions, which has an impressive portfolio of public sector work, has been busy running workshops with Andover residents, volunteers and staff, as well as children at Pilgrims Cross Primary School and Endeavour Primary School, to hear their thoughts and ideas for the project.

The Lights is also working to connect the venue with Andover town centre by creating signage and lighting to mark the route more effectively and to encourage a sense of drama and theatre as people approach the venue. These projects have been made possible thanks to funding from Arts Council England, which granted The Lights £40,000 to help to fund initiatives to encourage people to engage with the arts.



Get Christmas shopping wrapped up early at The Lights Food and Gift Fair

This year's Wrapped Up event at The Lights Arena café bar will take place on Saturday 3 December from 10am to 3pm, and entry is free.

All your Christmas present shopping needs will be catered for, with more than 40 stalls filling the venue with festive-inspired gifts and goodies galore!

Indulge yourself or choose presents for others from the wide range of

cakes, chutneys, chocolates, jewellery, crafts, handbags, scarves, Christmas decorations and cards, books, plants and glassware on offer.

Free face painting from 12 midday and an activity table will be available to keep the little ones amused, and festive food and drink will be on sale in the café to keep energy levels from flagging.

It is the perfect opportunity to get ahead with the Christmas shopping.

Christmas and New Year bin collection dates



Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 19 December 2016	Monday 19 December 2016
Tuesday 20 December 2016	Tuesday 20 December 2016
Wednesday 21 December 2016	Wednesday 21 December 2016
Thursday 22 December 2016	Thursday 22 December 2016
Friday 23 December 2016	Friday 23 December 2016

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 26 December 2016	Tuesday 27 December 2016
Tuesday 27 December 2016	Wednesday 28 December 2016
Wednesday 28 December 2016	Thursday 29 December 2016
Thursday 29 December 2016	Friday 30 December 2016
Friday 30 December 2016	Saturday 31 December 2016

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 2 January 2017	Tuesday 3 January 2017
Tuesday 3 January 2017	Wednesday 4 January 2017
Wednesday 4 January 2017	Thursday 5 January 2017
Thursday 5 January 2017	Friday 6 January 2017
Friday 6 January 2017	Saturday 7 January 2017

FREE car parking for one hour

Shop for longer in December with one hour's free car parking on **Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays**. Simply purchase a minimum of one hour's parking to gain another hour free of charge.

FREE Christmas Parking Voucher

One hour free when you purchase a minimum of one hour's parking.

Valid in Test Valley Borough Council car parks* in Andover and Romsey.

Valid on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 5 to 21 December.

Display this voucher on your dashboard alongside your pay and display ticket. Add one hour to the time on your ticket to calculate your return time.

*Valid with cash or Ringo payments only.



Test Valley Borough Council

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It's easier than ever to apply for a **community grant**

Test Valley Borough Council has made it easier than ever to apply for community grants of up to £25,000 thanks to a new online portal.

Residents and community organisations can now use the new portal at www.testvalley.gov.uk/communitygrants to apply for grants from the Community Asset Fund and the Councillor Community Grant scheme. The self-serve portal allows applicants to save their submission part way through and return to it later, as well as track the progress of their application.

Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder, Councillor Tony Ward, said:

"The new portal is a more modern and efficient way for residents and community groups to apply for some of our most popular grants. The Councillor Community Grant scheme and Community Asset Fund have enabled local organisations to host events and activities, create regular clubs and even build extensions on community buildings."

Have your say on **healthcare**

Healthwatch Hampshire is an independent organisation which gathers and represents the views of the public on local health and social care services. Its role is to influence and challenge the delivery of health and social care by using feedback and experiences shared by members of the public.

Healthwatch Hampshire would like to hear from people in Test Valley because levels of involvement in our borough are lower than other parts of Hampshire. Anybody who uses health

and social care services can contribute their views, whether they are positive, negative or neutral.

You can submit comments via the 'Speak Out' section of the Healthwatch Hampshire website. Just visit www.healthwatchhampshire.co.uk. Alternatively, you can speak to a member of the Healthwatch Hampshire team and give your feedback directly on **01962 440262**. If you would prefer to speak to someone in person, simply drop in to any Citizens Advice office in Hampshire to give your views.

Andover Vision has its eye on the ball

Andover Vision has installed two brand new outdoor table tennis tables after residents asked for more outdoor sports facilities to be provided in the town.

The two new tables were delivered during the second week of October and are located in the small park by Town Mills and on the area of grass near the entrance to Andover Leisure Centre. Bats and balls are provided for people to use free of charge.

Residents flagged up that there was a need for more outdoor sports facilities in the area through the Andover Vision consultation process. The suggestion to install outdoor table tennis tables and several other projects were put to a public vote at a series of community events over the summer, with the ping pong proposal coming out on top.



Councillor Phil North, who has been coordinating the Andover Vision project, said: *"At one of our consultation events early in the summer, residents suggested that providing more outdoor sports facilities would be a good way to help people to be more active while encouraging people to visit the town. This proved to be very popular and went on to win the public vote. Table tennis is a great activity for people of all ages to enjoy, so I hope the tables will be well used by the public."*

"Andover Vision is about establishing our residents' hopes and aspirations for the town and I am delighted that we have been able to deliver this initial project for them. Ultimately, the plan is to create a long term vision for the town, but we hope to deliver small, one-off projects along the way."

Feedback from residents will be used to develop an Andover Vision document and action plan, which are expected to be launched in April 2017.

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What's on in Test Valley

Here's a summary of forthcoming events around Test Valley. More information about many of these events can be found at www.testvalley.gov.uk/events

The Lights, Andover

Tea for Two	26 October, 2pm
Talon – The Best of the Eagles	26 October, 7.45pm
The Big Friendly Gigantic Picnic Party	27 October, 11am
Rob Heron and the Tea Pad Orchestra	28 October, 8pm
Monstersaurus	29 October, 11am
Midge Ure	29 October, 7.45pm
Far From the Madding Crowd	1 November, 7.30pm
Seann Walsh	3 November, 8pm
Richard Digance	4 November, 7.45pm
Guns N Roses Experience	5 November, 8pm
Shakespeare Schools Festival	15 to 16 November, 7pm
Money for Nothing	18 November, 7.45pm
Singalonga Grease	19 November, 2.30pm
Singalonga Dirty Dancing	19 November, 7.30pm
Leo Houlding	23 November, 7.30pm
Martyn Joseph	25 November, 7.45pm
Romeo & Juliet	26 November, 7.30pm
Lee Nelson	29 November, 7.30pm
And Finally...Phil Collins	1 December, 7.45pm
Martin Harley	6 December, 7.45pm
The Night Before Christmas	7 to 9 December, 10.30am, 1.30pm
Christmas Party Night	9 December, 7.30pm
Ga Ga	10 December, 7.45pm
A Salute to the 1970's Christmas Special	16 December, 7.30pm
Snow White	17 December, 2.30pm, 7.30pm
80's Mania	20 December, 7.45pm
Christmas Memories	21 December, 2pm
Santa Saves Christmas	22 December, 10.30am, 1.30pm
Comedy Club 4 Kids	23 December, 1.30pm

The Plaza, Romsey

Nell Gwynn	8 to 12 November, 7.30pm
Forbidden Nights	16 November, 8pm
Romsey Male Voice Choir	18 November, 7.30pm
Blowin' in the Wind	19 November, 7.30pm
Two	28 November to 3 December, 7.30pm
Strictly Christmas	5 to 6 December, 7.30pm
Plaza Ghost Walks	Various dates – see website
Beauty and the Beast	Various dates throughout January 2017

Weyhill Electronic Organ Society

17 November	Andrew Nix
15 December	Nicholas Martin

Parks and countryside

Scrub clearance	
Anton Lakes Local Nature Reserve	30 October, 10am to 2pm
Meadow management	
Tadburn Meadows Local Nature Reserve	6 November, 10am to 12pm
Scrub clearance	
Swattons Field, Andover	12 November, 10am to 2pm
Birch clearance	
Valley Park Local Nature Reserve	20 November, 10am to 2pm

Events information

For events at The Lights book online at www.thelights.org.uk or contact the box office on 01264 368368.
 For events at The Plaza, please call the booking office on 01794 512987.
 For countryside events please check www.testvalley.gov.uk as these may be subject to change or for more information contact the Countryside Officers on 01264 368000.
 Weyhill Electronic Organ Society events are held at the Fairground Hall, Weyhill, unless otherwise stated. Tickets are £5 and available from Just Teasin, Bridge Street, Andover or £6 on the door, subject to availability.
 For more information contact 01264 323213 or visit www.weyhill-eos.co.uk.

Council meetings

24 October to 23 December

Andover meetings are held in Conference Room One at the Council's Beech Hurst offices on Weyhill Road unless otherwise stated. Romsey meetings are held in Crosfield Hall.

October 2016			
27.10.16	Northern Area Planning Committee	Andover	5.30pm
November 2016			
01.11.16	Southern Area Planning Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
02.11.16	General Purposes Committee	Andover	4.00pm
02.11.16	Cabinet	Andover	5.30pm
03.11.16	Licensing Committee	Andover	5.30pm
08.11.16	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Andover	5.30pm
09.11.16	Council	Andover Guildhall	4.00pm
10.11.16	Planning Control Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
17.11.16	Northern Area Planning Committee	Andover	5.30pm
22.11.16	Southern Area Planning Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
29.11.16	Planning Control Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
30.11.16	Cabinet	Romsey	5.30pm
December 2016			
01.12.16	Licensing Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
07.12.16	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
08.12.16	Northern Area Planning Committee	Andover	5.30pm
13.12.16	Southern Area Planning Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
20.12.16	Planning Control Committee	Romsey	5.30pm
21.12.16	Cabinet	Romsey	5.30pm

For your information

The aim of Test Valley News is to keep the borough's residents up to date with relevant information about the public services and facilities available to them, as well as other important local news.

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As part of the Council's commitment to enhance and preserve the environment, Test Valley News is printed on recycled paper. For more information see:

www.testvalley.gov.uk or call the Editor on 01264 368108.

Different formats of Test Valley News are available for anyone who has difficulty reading this publication. Please call the Chief Executive's office on 01264 368108.

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