

A newsletter from the Borough Councillors for the Test Valley Borough Ward of Mid-Test Councillors Alison Johnston, Ian Jeffrey, and Stewart MacDonald

New Mayor appointed for Test Valley



Following Test Valley's Annual Full Council meeting on Wednesday 14 May 2025, councillor Gordon Bailey was elected as the new Mayor for Test Valley.

Councillor Bailey, who is one of the ward councillors for Blackwater, served as Deputy Mayor in 2023/24. Gordon would have become Mayor the following year, however he was unable to take on the role due to a personal issue. Gordon Bailey will be supported by former Mayor Karen Hamilton, who will be acting as the Mayoress.

Councillor Ian Jeffrey, who was appointed Mayor last year, will be Deputy Mayor, not having done the role before filling in for councillor Bailey in 2024.

Councillor Bailey, said: "I am delighted to have been appointed Mayor of Test Valley for the upcoming year. My upmost thanks go to Councillor Ian Jeffrey for doing a fantastic job last year when I needed to care for my family, and I look forward to working with him as my deputy. I would also like to thank all my councillor colleagues for giving me this opportunity, and to Karen Hamilton for supporting me in this journey. I'm excited to see what the next 12 months brings and what events and activities are in store for me."



Recycling rate

The government publishes the local authority recycling rates annually, and on 27 March the latest results were released. Unfortunately, the information is published very late into the year, and so the results released last month were for 2023/24.

The fantastic news is Test Valley's recycling rate has risen to an impressive 38.1% - in comparison, the previous year's recycling rate was 37.4% (2022/23). This means TVBC have the fifth best recycling rate in Hampshire, which is excellent considering we do not collect glass bottles/jars or food waste at the kerbside yet.

In part, the increased rate can be attributed to their behavioural change approach, where collection teams and recycling officers persist in checking and tagging bins, and educating residents wherever possible.

Moving forwards, it's anticipated the recycling rate for 2024/25 to be similar, but the 2025/26 recycling rate will increase as we introduce our kerbside food waste collection service during October.

Improving recycling: Communal bin stores

Through the Civic University Agreement, Test Valley Borough Council is collaborating with the University of Southampton, Winchester City and Eastleigh Borough Councils, on a project focussing on improving recycling participation in areas where recycling has significant challenges.

The project involves engaging with communities to support behavioural change. TVBC would like to better understand the individual challenges, community needs and preferences within communal residences (flats, apartments etc.) and to co-develop ways to improve recycling.

The university is facilitating the recruitment of residents and will host three deliberative workshops from May to July.

Over the next couple of weeks, the university will be teaming up with our Community Engagement Team, to recruit some residents. This will involve putting up posters, handing out flyers and

door knocking. The university will pay £250 to each participant for attending all of the three sessions, and travel and refreshments will be provided too.

Community Asset Fund

Community Asset Fund application deadlines, application review meetings and outcome confirmation dates can be found here: www.testvalley.gov.uk/caf.

Round	Application deadline	Application review	Application outcome
1	Mon 16 June 2025	Wed 16 July 2025	Fri 01 Aug 2025
2	Mon 22 Sept 2025	Wed 22 Oct 2025	Fri 07 Nov 2025
3	Mon 12 Jan 2026	Wed 11 Feb 2026	Fri 27 Feb 2026

Please note:

- Applications must be received by 23:00 on the application deadline days.
- Funding cannot be awarded retrospectively, so work must not begin until after application outcomes are confirmed.

For more information contact your [Community Engagement Officer](#).

New round of rural business capital grants launched



Test Valley Borough Council has been awarded a further £77k of Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) money by the UK Government for rural business grants towards capital projects.

Capital grants of between £10k and £20k will be available to new and existing rural businesses, to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. Businesses will need to fund at least 50% of their total project costs from their own sources.

Councillor Alison Johnston, portfolio holder for Climate Emergency and Countryside, said: “We have a large rural community in the borough and the REPF is supporting our rural businesses to purchase equipment, employ new technologies, diversify, improve productivity, grow, and employ more local people. We are delighted to be able to offer further grants in 2025-26.”

Funding will be available for:

- Growing the local social economy and supporting innovation (open to all SMEs);
- Small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas (fewer than 50 employees);
- The development and promotion of the visitor economy (open to all SMEs).

For more information please visit: www.testvalley.gov.uk/businessrepf

The Hawk Conservancy Trust soars with support from the Rural England Prosperity Fund

The Hawk Conservancy Trust has been awarded a £15,460 grant from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) to improve facilities for visitors attending their renowned flying demonstrations and evening events. The grant, covering 50% of project costs, has funded new bollard lighting throughout the Trust's grounds and modern PA systems in two of the main flying demonstration arenas to ensure a safer, more immersive experience for visitors while maintaining the Trust's commitment to wildlife conservation.

The new LED lighting bollards blend seamlessly into the natural landscape, with wooden posts designed to light pathways rather than the sky which in turn reduces light pollution and ensures a bird-friendly environment. The system is wired into seven separate circuits, allowing staff to adjust lighting based on specific event needs, ensuring both functionality and energy efficiency.

The new PA systems installed in the Savannah and Meadow arenas ensure crystal-clear audio across the venue, with a four-channel surround system that enriches the demonstration experience. The system also covers areas used by wheelchair users and neurodiverse visitors, ensuring everyone can enjoy the awe-inspiring displays at their comfort level.

Councillor Maureen Flood said: "The Hawk Conservancy Trust plays a vital role in educating visitors and protecting birds of prey. These improvements, supported through the Rural England Prosperity Fund, demonstrate our commitment to supporting organisations that enrich our community. The new lighting system replaces a less efficient battery lighting system and prioritises sustainability while enhancing accessibility, and the upgraded PA systems will provide a more engaging experience for all visitors."

Update of Sports Strategies

The council is continuing to update two important strategies; the Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategies are important evidence-based documents which support how the local authority invest in sports facilities and ensure any new facilities including on new developments meet the needs of the community.

The consultant Continuum have been appointed to lead this work which take approximately 12 months to complete. The first stage will see the gathering of information to develop the current picture of what facilities, and their condition are available to the community across Test Valley. This will include seeking information from Parish Councils, sports clubs and schools. The below letter is intended to be sent to all parish councils in Test Valley from Monday 24 February to start the process.

For any information about this project please contact [Fen Holland](#), Sports Development Officer.

Guide to Making Historic Buildings More Energy Efficient

On April 9 2025, Cabinet approved the TVBC Guide to Making Historic Buildings More Energy Efficient. This sits alongside the Net Zero Carbon Advice Note in trying to help explore opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of homes.

It intended as a summary of measures that occupants of historic buildings can consider to make their buildings more energy efficient and reduce carbon emissions. The aim is to assist owners and occupiers of traditional buildings within the Test Valley to identify what appropriate opportunities there may be to enhance the energy efficiency of their buildings and contribute to renewable and low carbon energy generation.

The guide covers energy efficiency and retrofit enhancements to roofs, walls, floors, doors and windows, and also covers renewable and low carbon technology enhancements such as solar panels, heating systems and electric vehicle charging points. In relation to each of these, information is provided on whether consents may be needed and things to consider if people are looking to undertake such works.

Traveller Injunction

TVBC has been successful in getting an injunction to prevent unauthorised encampments against 'persons unknown' extended for a further year (the maximum allowable).recently. The injunction against named individuals has another four years left to run. Both include the power of arrest which is absolutely crucial in moving on any breaches the same day.

Since receiving the final order last May, there have only had two breaches in the injunction area:

- 1) On 24th of June 2024, where 4 caravans broke onto the cricket pitch at Romsey Rapids.
- 2) On the 24th August 2024, where several caravans gained access to some green space in Augusta Park.

In both cases the police threatened to arrest the perpetrators if they didn't quickly vacate the site, and the encampments packed up and moved on the same day.

This is in comparison to the two years immediately prior to the interim order where in 2018 where there were 38 unauthorised encampments and in 2019 there were 40. The vast majority of which included some form of fly-tipping, the dumping of human waste, damage, nuisance, animal cruelty or intimidating or anti-social behaviour – with every single encampment occupying land where they didn't have permission to be. At that time it took up to a week to obtain a court order to move them on and on some occasions they would drive down the road to a different location and the process would have to start have to start again.

The Judge, Her Honour Justice Ricardson, was clear that there had been no material changes in circumstances. That the current order is extremely effective in preventing not just the number of unauthorised encampments, but the length of their stay and, of course, the reduction in clean-up costs.

Leader of Test Valley Borough Council, Councillor Phil North, said: "I'm delighted that the order against persons unknown has been renewed for another 12 months. The hard work to get our injunction in place is paying off. Since May 2024 there have only been two breaches of the injunction area and in both cases they were moved on the same day.

“This decision continues to protect those living in the injunction area from the appalling behaviour that we’ve had to experience over many years. Unauthorised traveller encampments won’t be tolerated in Test Valley. The reinstatement of the power of arrest against ‘persons unknown’ in May 2024 means that in partnership with the police we can move on any perpetrator very quickly without having to seek protracted court orders. I’m sure this will also act as a deterrent from unauthorised encampments from coming to Test Valley in the first place, along with all the other work we have done to better protect our open spaces.

Councillors support new community business in East Tytherley



Councillors are continuing to spend time where it matters most – out in their communities. Last week, Councillor Alison Johnston paid a visit to a new community-focused business on the Lockerley Estate, East Tytherley, taking the opportunity to welcome Hampshire Market Garden CIC to the area and show the council’s support as they begin this exciting new chapter.

The project, which is focused on regenerative farming and community engagement, aims to grow and sell seasonal fruit and vegetables locally while also offering volunteering opportunities and educational programmes in partnership with Sparsholt College.

The visit was an opportunity for Councillor Johnston to meet the directors, Chris Huskins and Seb Mayfield, and hear how the initiative plans to interact with the community, from wellness focused volunteering to hands-on learning experiences for local students.

Councillor Johnson said, “It’s exciting to see the potential this project has, and I look forward to seeing how Test Valley Borough Council can continue to support the project, whether that’s through signposting, funding opportunities or connecting them with residents who’d love to get involved.”

The site will not only provide fresh produce to the local area but also play a role in improving wellbeing, offering meaningful volunteering roles, and educating the next generation of growers.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Phil North, added; “As a council, we’re focused on being present and proactive within our communities. Supporting initiatives like this – especially in their early stages – is essential to building long-term, collaborative relationships. It’s great to see councillors taking the time to meet with new local enterprises and understand how we can help them thrive.”

The team at Hampshire Market Garden CIC are currently inviting volunteers to get involved as the site takes shape. From practical help with planting to supporting community engagement events, there are plenty of opportunities to play a part in this exciting new chapter for East Tytherley.

Man ordered to pay over £1,500 after dumping a large amount of waste



A large fly-tip, which included flooring, tiles, and carpet, has led to a man being ordered to pay more than £1,500 in fines and costs.

In June 2024, a report of waste being dumped in the vicinity of the Old Chalk Pit on Foundary Road in Anna Valley, near Andover was received.

When officers arrived, they found a fly-tip consisting of a large quantity of vinyl flooring, boarding, tiles, polythene, a wheelbarrow filled with waste, aerosol cans, grippers, underlay, cardboard, carpet, and packaging, which had been thrown through a fence at the site.

Information within the rubbish led officers to Darren Gladwyn, 45, from Ludgershall. At Basingstoke Magistrates Court on 2 May 2025, Gladwyn was given a fine of £293 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £117 and costs of £907. Compensation of £270 was also paid directly to Upper Clatford Parish Council who had paid for the waste to be removed from their land.

Portfolio holder for Recycling and Environmental Services, Cllr David Drew, said, "The team will always investigate incidents like this, even if it doesn't happen on TVBC owned land. This is further proof of our commitment to the zero-tolerance approach to fly-tipping in the borough, which the vast majority of the residents support."

Victory in Europe Day

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped organise VE Day 80 events this past week. It was great to see many people come together to commemorate. In total TVBC awarded £25k in community grants to over 50 local organisations, helping to fund street parties, afternoon teas, musical performances and reflective services.

Defibrillators for public use are located at:

Stockbridge Fire Station (available 24 hours)

Longstock Village Hall (available 24 hours)

Leckford Estate Office (restricted hours)

Leckford Farm Shop (restricted hours)

Up Somborne Rookley Farm (24 hours)

King's Somborne Village Hall

King's Somborne – The Crown Inn (available 24 hours on front wall of pub)

Over Wallop - the White Hart pub, Pinchbecks Garage and the Army Flying Museum.

Nether Wallop -Village Hall and the Pavilion on the playing fields.

Broughton Village Hall

Mottisfont Social Club

Ashley- Ashley Farm (24 hours)

Instructions for use are given when the device is commandeered.

In the event of an emergency, after dialling 999 to report the incident, the phone operative should give the access code for the cabinet, to the person/first aider using the device.

Contact

If there are any issues in this copy that you would like to discuss, or any items of news that you would like to be considered in a future copy please contact any of the Borough councillors.



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