

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



## Borough Councillors Lead Community Workshops



Over recent months Borough Councillors in the southeast of Test Valley have been working hard in their community councillor roles. Councillor led workshops have helped identify separate priorities for the wards of Chilworth, Nursling and Rownhams; Valley Park and North Baddesley. Last week Councillors once again brought together representatives from community groups and organisations, working in the area, to talk about aspirations and priorities for their communities.

The event held at Chilworth Village Hall on Thursday 18 July was a 'marketplace' style event in which representative from organisations who could help deliver the priorities attended to work with our councillors and local groups. The event was attended by around 30 community stakeholders. Feedback on the night was that it had been a great success which had helped facilitate some great conversations about how to progress the priority projects.

Indeed, the day after the event, one of the attendees submitted a Councillor Community Grant application, thanks to the advice and encouragement they received at the event.

The previous workshops prompted the creation of a group in North Baddesley, where organisations running the range of community facilities in the area meet to discuss how they can collectively get the best out of the facilities.

## Upgrading our life saving equipment



The council is upgrading water safety devices across our sites following a rise in vandalism and misuse of life rings.

Council officers currently spend the equivalent of four days a month being called out to collect life rings that have been thrown into ponds and lakes at our nature reserves and parks.

With missing safety equipment posing a risk to life, the council has taken advice from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service and will be rolling out new Throw Line Housing Stations across the borough.

Each station contains a throw line, which users can access in an emergency by dialling 999 and providing the precise location reference displayed on the unit. The call handler will give them a code to unlock the throw line, which can be used repeatedly.

Rikki Noble, Test Valley Station Manager at Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue said: " If someone is in trouble in the water, the best way to help is by staying calm, staying on land, and remembering Call, Tell, Throw: call 999 for the emergency services, tell the struggling person to float on their back, throw them something that floats.

"These new water safety stations will help people by providing vital lifesaving equipment and giving them clear instructions so they understand what to do in an emergency. They will also help us to easily identify the location and reach anyone in need as quickly as possible. It is important that this equipment is available for use when needed and the new stations should help prevent anti-social use and damage to this vital lifesaving equipment."

Cllr Terese Swain, Portfolio Holder for Community, Leisure and Tourism, said:

“Lakes on Test Valley Borough Council land aren’t for swimming or paddling, but accidents happen, and these safety devices are there for anyone needing urgent, lifesaving help.

In 2022, 266 people drowned accidentally in the UK and more of these drowning incidents took place in inland waterways than the sea\*. Every time somebody removes a life ring for anything other than helping someone in need, they could be putting another life at risk.”

If you see a life ring that is out of place you can report it to the council by emailing [leisure@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:leisure@testvalley.gov.uk) or calling 01264 368000 and asking to speak to the Countryside team.

## DontBinBatteries

The council are asking residents to stop putting their batteries in their household bins. Earlier this year there were two bin lorry fires in one day. When loose batteries, and small electrical items including vapes, are crushed by the lorry it can cause sparks which may lead to a fire, putting staff at risk.



## Other News

**Uncover Test Valley: A guide to nature walks, cycling routes, attractions and more.**

This idyllic part of Hampshire offers you everything in the way fresh air activity. You can be close to nature through walking, cycling, exploring gardens and woodland, enjoy fly-fishing, outdoor attractions and even sleeping in some unique locations!

### Walking

The [Test Way](#) is a wonderful 44-mile-long distance walk which runs the length of the River Test, passing through picturesque countryside and villages along the way. You can tackle one of the eight stages if you don't fancy the whole length. Or there's the [Clarendon Way](#), a 24-mile walk divided into four stages between Winchester and Salisbury Cathedrals. The [Monarch's Way](#), is another long-distance footpath that follows the escape route taken by King Charles II.



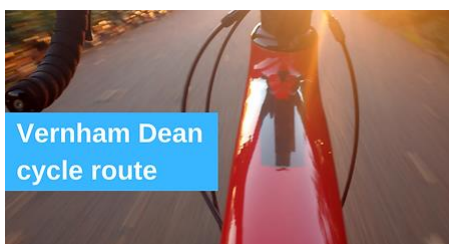
There is a disused railway line called [the Sprat and Winkle](#) that used to run between Andover and Redbridge, Southampton. As well as many opportunities for [short circular walks](#) there are dog friendly routes, family rambles and walks in nature reserves and woodland. The National Trust also looks after some beautiful areas just perfect for walking and observing wildlife such as Chilbolton Cow Common and Stockbridge Marsh.

## Cycling

There are many levels of rides along a energetic and hilly

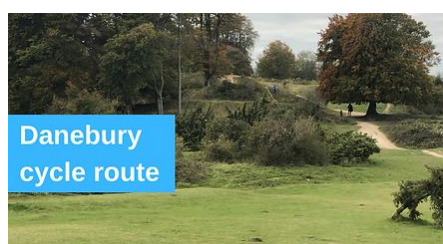


[routes on offer for cyclists](#) of all ability and interest - from leisurely disused railway line to more mountain biking



Vernham Dean cycle route

Vernham Dean cycle route - 23



Danebury cycle route

Danebury cycle route - 24 mil



Test Way cycle route

Test Way family cycle route - 5 miles



Whitchurch cycle route

Whitchurch cycle route - 23 miles



National cycle route 246

National cycle route 246 - 31 miles

## Fishing and other outdoor activities



You can indulge a passion for fly-fishing or learn the skills from scratch. The River Test and River Dever have some of the finest fly fishing in the world. Enjoy time on the river with [Fishing Breaks](#) which provides a programme of activities for all ages and abilities. Other fishing organisations that can arrange fishing include the [Bossington Estate](#), [Leckford Estate](#), [Winwhistle Coarse Fishing](#), and more. Guests at [The Grosvenor](#), Stockbridge can book fly fishing, pheasant or partridge shooting, clay shooting and deer stalking. [The Greyhound on the Test](#), Stockbridge, can arrange fly fishing, game, deer stalking and clay pigeon shooting. They even offer hampers to enjoy picnics by the river.

## Gardens

You can enjoy visiting wonderful gardens like the world-renowned 180-acre [Sir Harold Hillier Gardens](#), which besides being a great attraction in itself, has outdoor workshops and concerts, the privately owned [Houghton Lodge Gardens](#), the wonderful [Longstock Park Water Gardens](#), [Mottisfont's](#) riverside gardens and estate town parks and open spaces in Andover and Romsey and the medieval gardens at [King John's House, Romsey](#).

## Outdoor attractions

Enjoy the birds of prey at the [Hawk Conservancy Trust](#) or animals at [Finkley Down Farm](#) and [Cholderton Rare Breeds Farm](#). There's also [Paultons Park](#) with more than 70 rides and attractions as well as gardens and lakes. Try an unusual festival such as [Trout 'n About](#), a celebration of local produce in Stockbridge, or [Andover's Cycling Festival](#).



## Accommodation



Enjoy a stay in one of [Chilworth Woodland Retreat's](#) shepherd's huts or log cabin, learn about farm life on a [Gambledown Farm stay](#) (luxury safari-style tents or a converted barn), or at [Michelpers Manor Farm](#). And try [The Meadow Glamping](#), which has unusual glamping units - an original showman's wagon, a boutique bohemian hideaway and a 23ft narrow boat. Or you might like to try luxury treehouse living at [Fullerton Farm](#), by the Black Chalk winery. Explore [Visit Test Valley](#) for more inspiration.

## A Defibrillator Near You

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 field.
- Ashley Farm (available 24 hours)
- Broughton - Village Hall, doctor's surgery, Sports Pavilion



Instructions for use are given when the device is commandeered but for anyone who would like prior understanding of how to use one, see:

<https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/events/>

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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