

Borough Councillor Report

Cllr Maureen Flood and Cllr Susanne Hasselmann

June 2025

Local Plan Publication and Extraordinary Council Meeting

While we know that new development is sometimes unpopular, we also know that we need more homes to meet our communities' needs. But we need homes in the right places with the right infrastructure. And, critically, we want those new homes to be planned in consultation with local people. The government's decision to flick the switch and increase housing numbers for Test Valley by 78 percent almost overnight, has made this very challenging. Because the government didn't make provisions for adequate transitional arrangements to get local plans in place first, it put councils at risk of speculative planning applications. We are, therefore, left with a 'first past the post' process, where those developers who can submit their application the quickest are likely to get planning permission because we don't have a sufficient supply of homes to meet the government's inflated housing requirement. This has been the case in the most recent application in Goodworth Clatford.

To help guard against this in the future, the Council have been working at pace to amend our local plan to accommodate the increased housing numbers, and later in the summer we will be consulting to ask for feedback on the draft. We will need to make some tough decisions to ensure that the local plan identifies enough sites to meet 15,878 homes over the next 17 years. If we don't, we will be left with new development coming forward from applications and appeals in an ad hoc way. And we are having to make incredibly difficult decisions about permitting applications, because of our inability to defend them due to not meeting the new five-year housing land supply target.

The Local Plan consultation will be your opportunity to get involved and share your feedback on where additional homes are best located.

Due to the urgency, there will be an extraordinary Council meeting on Wednesday 18 June to consider the draft Local Plan Revised Regulation 18 for public consultation. Papers have been published beforehand and available to the public:

<https://democracy.testvalley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=4360&Ver=4>

VE Day Celebrations



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. In our ward nearly every village was able to access the grant monies and put on some amazing events:

- Monxton and Ampot Village Hall
- Abbott's Ann Parish Council
- Ampot Primary
- Quarley Village Hall
- Grateley Parish Council
- Upper Clatford Parish Council

Appointments

Test Valley Borough Council held their Annual Council meeting in May and (re)confirmed the following appointments:

Councillor Gordon Bailey – Mayor

Councillor Ian Jeffrey – Deputy Mayor

Councillor Maureen Flood – Portfolio Holder, Finance

Councillor Susanne Hasselmann – Chair of Audit

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks grant funding

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks fund for Powering Communities to Net Zero is now open for applications with a deadline of 25 June.

It offers grants of up to £15,000 for community-led physical and environmental resilience, and up to £20,000 for non-profit organisations to go towards the purchase of low-carbon technology. Find out more at:

<https://www.ssen.co.uk/about-ssen/our-communities/powering-communities-to-net-zero-fund/>

CAF Fund now open

We are pleased to confirm that the Test Valley Borough Council Community Asset Fund 2025/26 is now open for online applications.

All the supporting information and link to the online application form can be found here: www.testvalley.gov.uk/caf

The Community Asset Fund 2025/26 will have three rounds and the application deadline, application review and application outcome dates are as follows:

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 day, listed above.
- Funding cannot be awarded retrospectively, so before applying groups should be sure that no work will begin prior to the application outcome date.

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.

Man ordered to pay over £1,500 after failing to assist with large fly-tip near Andover

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 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) received a report of waste being dumped in the vicinity of the Old Chalk Pit on Foundary Road in Anna Valley, near Andover.

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, who was invited to attend an interview under caution on 3 July 2024. Gladwyn never attended, and failed to show up for a further interview, as well as a notice to assist with the investigation.

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: “If you receive a notice from the council requesting your assistance with a fly-tipping investigation, the easiest and best thing to do is to respond and help. If people don’t, not only does it delay the investigation and cause more work for our officers, but it could land you with a hefty fine.

“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.”

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