



Valley Park Parish Council Newsletter

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To keep up to date visit our website at www.valleyparkparish.org

Good News Twice Over

Borough and Parish Councillors Alan Dowden, Kath Tilling and Andrew Beesley are delighted to report that the planning application for Great Covert has been refused by Test Valley Borough Council. Officers and members were unanimous that the proposed development of 300 houses would be detrimental to the local environment and would have serious adverse effects on the ancient woodland as a habitat for a number of rare species, including birds, amphibians and reptiles.



Alan Dowden



Kath Tilling



Andrew Beesley

More good news for our Parish came on 27th January, when the Borough Council adopted its Local Plan for the period up to 2029. Valley Park does not feature in the Plan as a preferred site for house building and the Parish is protected further from unnecessary development by a policy which preserves the local gaps between Valley Park and Chilworth, Valley Park and North Baddesley and North of Flexford Road and Ampfield.

The Councillors would like to thank those residents who supported them in objecting to further development and wrote to the TVBC Planning Department to say so.

Traffic Regulatory Orders

Following public consultation and representation from Valley Park councillors, Test Valley Borough Council is going ahead with the introduction of Traffic Regulatory Orders throughout the Parish. Notable changes will include extending the double yellow lines near Knightwood School and imposing restrictions in the roads and parking bays off Templars Way, Castle Lane and School Lane.

Cllr Kath Tilling commented: "I am delighted that, after several years of enduring an escalating parking problem, we now have a solution which will stop commuters and local workers using the Parish as a free car park. Improving road safety by extending the double yellow lines around dangerous junctions is also a welcome development." The Traffic Regulatory Orders are likely to be implemented in the spring.

Play Area Improvements

Following the renovation last year of the play areas in Sandringham Close, Hemlock Way, Taw/Tweed Close, Bellflower Way and Knightwood Leisure Centre, Test Valley Borough Council is proposing to add the play areas in Collins Close, Donnington Drive and Hornbeam Road to the improvement programme.

Local residents will be consulted as to how the play value of these sites can be improved before refurbishment begins.



More Things Bright And Beautiful.....

School children from Knightwood and St Francis' Schools have been helping to enhance the beauty of our area by planting a further 3000 daffodil bulbs, this time in Sky's Wood Road. This latest scheme brings the total of bulbs planted in Valley Park to over 20,000.

Cllr Alan Dowden, who was responsible for introducing the annual bulb-planting scheme, commented: "Once again, local school-children have done us proud. The daffodils are a cheerful addition to the landscape and they lift our spirits when they appear in the spring."

Alan, who is a governor at both schools, added: "The whole community can enjoy these displays and the hands-on experience of bulb-planting enables the children to learn about and respect the natural environment."



Tax Cuts For Valley Park Residents

Once again, Valley Park has the lowest parish rate of Council Tax in Test Valley. Through prudent budgeting, the Parish Council has been able to reduce the rate to a level which is 40% lower in real terms than when the Parish was formed 8 years ago.

Chairman of the Parish Council, Alan Dowden, observed: "At a time when many councils are increasing Council Tax to meet deficits, it is pleasing that we are able to help residents by lowering the parish rate. We believe that we should only charge what we need to and wherever possible, we should pass savings back to residents. After all, it is their money."

Bins On The Move...

Residents of Valley Park seeking to use a public litter bin may notice some changes over the next few months.

Following a review of the location, condition, capacity and use of each bin, a plan has been drawn up by Test Valley Borough Council and endorsed by Valley Park Parish Council, which will rationalise the provision of bins across the Parish. Some bins will be relocated, others scrapped or upgraded and seven new bins will be installed in areas lacking facilities at the moment.

The Parish Council is providing the new bins as part of its commitment to the Responsible Dog Ownership initiative, whilst the bin removal and installation processes are to be funded by the Borough Council.

When all the bins are in place, new signage designed by local school children will be installed to encourage the public to use the bins appropriately, especially when disposing of dog waste. The Parish Council hopes that reports of dog-fouling will decrease with the improved bin provision.

Landscaping At St Francis' School



Valley Park Parish Council has arranged for the entrance to the new public footpath, joining George Perrott Way with St Francis' School, to be landscaped. New borders have been constructed around the entrance to the footpath and the copse to the left of the gate has been thinned and cleared. Fresh topsoil has been laid down and spring bulbs have been planted to add colour to the scene in the coming months. With the advent of spring, the site will become even more attractive as the trees and shrubs come into leaf and further planting schemes take place.

"Landscaping the footpath has made a huge difference to the appearance of this entry to the school" said St Francis' Head Teacher, Esther Jones. "We want children and parents to use the path as the preferred pedestrian entry to the school, since it is safer than walking along Pilgrims Close and through the car park. Now that it is looking more attractive and inviting, I'm sure that more and more people will want to use it."

The landscape works were funded jointly by the Parish Council and the Borough Councillors, through their community budgets.



Borough and Parish Councillors Andrew Beesley, Kath Tilling and Alan Dowden have been given assurances that Test Valley Borough Council will enlarge the car park in Glendowan Road, in order to provide additional parking. This will enable parents of children at Knightwood School to be able to park and walk safely to school with their children.



Wicklow Drive

The bus shelters in Wicklow Drive are to be steam-cleaned and painted as soon as the weather improves. Funding for this work has been allocated by the Parish Council.



Glendowan Road

Careline

Scottish and Southern Electric have asked us to remind residents of Valley Park that Careline is available to help them. Careline is a free priority service for customers who are elderly, disabled or have special needs.

Ways in which Careline can help include:

- ✓ Providing a password scheme to protect against bogus callers
- ✓ Helping customers to read and understand their bills: Braille bills, talking bills, large print bills
- ✓ Recommending, and in some cases, providing special devices and adaptors to make it easier to use controls, plugs and switches in the home
- ✓ Supplying a generator to those reliant upon electrical equipment (eg a ventilator, stairlift, adjustable bed) in the event of a power cut or a disruption of power for essential maintenance

To take advantage of the services which Careline supports, you should register on the Scottish and Southern Electric Priority Service Register by calling **0800 622 838**.