



Valley Park  
Parish Council

## Valley Park Parish Council Newsletter

Edition 21/2015

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To keep up to date visit our website at [www.valleyparkparish.org](http://www.valleyparkparish.org)

### Valley Park Commemorates The Great War

In the picture Councillors Alan Dowden, Kath Tilling and Andrew Beesley admire the beautiful flower mix planted in numerous areas in Valley Park to commemorate The Great War.



### Great Covert Planning Application

Valley Park Councillors would like to thank the 200 local residents who wrote to Test Valley Borough Council about the proposed development of 300 homes at Great Covert. The application will be considered by the Southern Area Planning Committee at the Crosfield Hall, Romsey, on a day in March 2015. This will be a public meeting and residents are invited to attend. If you wish to address the Committee during the debate, please contact Test Valley Borough Council on 01264 368000 and ask for Legal and Democratic Services.

If you have not yet made your views known about the proposal, there is still time. Please write to **Rachel Illsley, Principal Planning Officer, Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover SP10 3AJ** or email [planning@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:planning@testvalley.gov.uk), quoting planning application number 14/02620.



### Love your dog, love Valley Park!

Parish Councillors are working with the Environmental Health Department of Test Valley Borough Council to promote responsible dog ownership in Valley Park. This is part of a Borough-wide initiative to reduce the incidence of dog fouling, nuisance behaviour and straying. Cllr Kath Tilling, who has taken on the mantle of 'local champion', explains: "In our area, most dog owners are very responsible. They keep their dogs on a lead when necessary and clean up appropriately after them. However, not everyone knows that dog waste can be placed in a general litter bin, provided that it is wrapped securely in a plastic bag, and some dog owners don't clear up dog waste at all."



Kath is currently spearheading a local campaign for greater public awareness of how to deal with dog waste. As part of the campaign, entitled "Love your dog, love Valley Park!", pupils at Knightwood School have designed posters which will be used for signage and bin stickers throughout Valley Park. The photograph shows Cllr Tilling, Cllr Dowden and Animal Welfare Officer Rod Mason presenting prizes to the children who entered the poster design competition. In the front row are winning entrants Sarah Moore (1<sup>st</sup>), Jessica Billimore (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Aminah Tadvi (3<sup>rd</sup>)

### New footpath for St Francis' School

Cllr Alan Dowden has been successful in gaining a grant of £20,000 from Hampshire County Council for the installation of a footpath between George Perrott Way and St Francis' School. The footpath will improve pedestrian access to the school, complementing the new "Park and Stride" scheme at Knightwood Leisure Centre, and will increase the safety of all school visitors, especially children. In the picture, Cllr Dowden is showing Cllr Kath Tilling the location of the new footpath.



### Rendezvous Café



A new community café called "The St Francis Rendezvous" has been set up at St Francis' Church, Valley Park. The café, which operates on the fourth Wednesday of each month and is open to all, offers drinks, snacks, company and conversation from 9.00am - 12.00 noon. Cllrs Beesley, Dowden and Tilling have been able to support the establishment of the café through grants from their Borough and County Councillor budgets. If you are able to help by making or serving refreshments at the café, please telephone 01794 519495.

### Blooming Marvellous!

Valley Park has once again won Gold Awards in the annual Test Valley in Bloom competition. The awards were for enhancing the attractiveness of the area and for involving local school children in community bulb planting schemes.

The picture shows Cllr Alan Dowden presenting one of the awards to pupils from Knightwood School.



### Playground makeovers

Following the recent refurbishment of the playgrounds in Bellflower Way and Wicklow Drive and those near Knightwood Leisure Centre and Tweed Close/Taw Drive, the Borough Councillors are pleased to report that makeovers are planned in the near future for the playgrounds in Hornbeam Road and Donnington Drive.



### Your local Parish Council

- Continues to resist the overdevelopment of Valley Park
- Maintains and enhances the attractiveness of the area
- Addresses residents' concerns about traffic, road safety and parking
- Champions new community initiatives
- Has set the lowest Parish Council Tax in Test Valley – now **40% lower** than 8 years ago



**A record of achievement and a promise of more**