

# Valley Park Parish Council Newsletter

2020 - June Edition

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

## STAY SAFE AND PROTECT EACH OTHER

### Daffodils in Valley Park



In November last year, children from Knightwood and St Francis CoE Primary Schools planted 4000 Jetfire daffodil bulbs and 3000 crocus corms. The crocus corms were donated by Chandler's Ford Rotary.

Parish councillors checked how well the bulbs have bloomed in the early spring sunshine.



Thank you Chandler's Ford Rotary and Veolia for their generous donations

### Tree Planting and Ash Die Back in Valley Park



The Council has put in a bid for funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy, for a tree planting scheme for 165 mature trees to be planted in various areas within Valley Park over the next three years. We are hoping to receive the funds to move our proposal forward later this year.

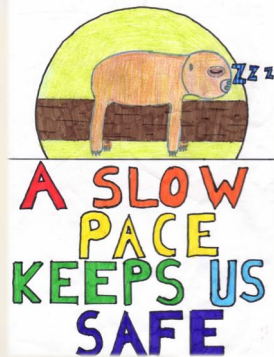
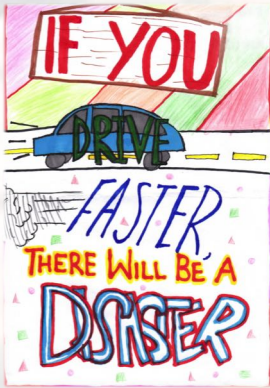


Sadly, the ash trees within Valley Park woodlands are almost all infected with *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*. A replanting programme of whips (small trees) will be carried out during the winter months. We would like to get the local community and Friends of The Park involved in this.



## Speed Sign Competition

The Parish launched a speed sign competition in Autumn term and both Knightwood and St Francis Primary Schools had a large number of entries. The Parish chose one winner from each school and the winners were announced in the school assemblies. All finalists were presented with a book voucher. Each school received £100 from the Council as a recognition for participating in the competition. The signs have now been created and will be mounted in several locations in our community once government guidance allows.



## News in Brief

- Valley Park has maintained the lowest Council Tax in Test Valley Borough, £12.70 at band D. The Parish has reduced its element of the Council Tax by a total of 40% since 13 years ago.
- Due to unprecedented and surreal circumstances and the lockdown, sadly, our hanging baskets will not be displayed this summer. We look forward to having them up in 2021.

## Local Help and Support during Coronavirus



### CHANDLER'S FORD HELP

Chandler's Ford Help is a Volunteer group here to help our older and vulnerable neighbours during the Corona Virus outbreak.

We can help with tasks such as shopping, collecting prescriptions, taking dogs for walks, taking animals to the Vets, or a friendly ear to alleviate concerns.

Please let us know if you need any help by either telephoning or emailing us on the details below.

Telephone: 07493 087427/07340 910784

Email: [Chandlersfordhelp@yahoo.com](mailto:Chandlersfordhelp@yahoo.com)

[www.facebook.com/groups/CFHELP/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CFHELP/)

We would like to express our thanks to some of the amazing volunteers and groups who have been working hard in Valley Park to help the older and vulnerable residents during this pandemic.

The Parish Council has financially supported the Chandler's Ford Help Group, St Francis Church and other small groups.

## Cllr Alan Dowden's County Annual Report

I have served as the County Councillor for the Baddesley Division for 29 years. I am a member of the Health and Social Care Select Committee. If Hampshire County Council is to remain financially sustainable beyond 2021/22 there needs to be more funding allocated from National Government to Adult and Children's Social Care, which in turn will help the pressures on the NHS.

I am a member of the Hampshire Pension Fund Committee and Board. Its investment strategy has been successful and I can report that its funds are financially sound and now worth about £8 billion.

The Council Tax for the year beginning 1st April 2020 will be £1286.28p for a Band "D" property an increase of 3.99% of which 2% is specifically allocated for Adult Social Care. Over the last ten years the County Council has needed to reduce its spending by £480 million following severe cuts in financial support from central government. Another £80 million pounds of further savings are needed next year in order to return a balanced budget. This will now result in higher costs for services and many cuts or reduced services.

Everyone can observe the lack of repairs to Hampshire's highways. The damage from potholes to resident's vehicles can be significant and compensation claims are high.

I have been happy to help various organizations within my Division with £8000 funding from my community grant fund in helping them to operate and benefit the local community. I have worked with the Knightwood and St Francis Primary Schools and last Autumn planted in Katrine Crescent Crocus & Jetfire daffodil bulbs. Now Spring has arrived everyone can see the pleasure it gives to residents and visitors to Valley Park. I would like to thank both schools because over a number of years they have helped me to plant 30,000 bulbs at no cost to the council taxpayer because I have been fortunate in gaining all the costs from business donations.

NB: Covid-19 will have a further significant impact on the financial sustainability of the Council going forward.