

**Minutes of the proceedings of Annual Parish Assembly of Valley Park Parish Council held on Monday 11 May 2009 at 7.30pm at the Knightwood Leisure Centre Valley Park**

**Present:** Councillor A Dowden (Chairman) and Councillors, R Bryan, J Barton, G Compton, Mrs L Guy and Mrs K Oliver.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Anderson, Mrs. C Dowden and Mrs. A Dyde.

**Action**

**1 Chairman's Report**

Councillor A Dowden reported upon another successful year for the Parish Council: see Appendix A for report.

**2 County Councillor's Report**

County Councillor A Dowden's annual report is attached at Appendix B

**3 Borough Councillor's Report**

TVBC Councillor Mrs L Guy presented her Borough Councillors report and is attached at Appendix C.

**4 Open Period**

Four members of the public attended the meeting one of whom asked questions in relation to road repairs at Woodend Way and allotments.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Chairman's Report

2008 has been another successful year for the Parish and the council has achieved a number of objectives.

- The Valley Park in Bloom Event was successfully launched by Mick Channon. This year, an unexpected result, was the Parish Council winning the Test Valley Borough in Bloom Competition which I am sure every member is proud of. A special thanks goes to our sponsors Asda and Bryant Homes for their support.
- HCC accredited community safety officers and TVBC Wardens continue to make regular patrols thus making Valley Park a safer environment in which to live.
- As a Parish Council we managed, with the help of staff at knightwood leisure centre, to put on a Teddy Bear's Picnic event in July. This was very enjoyable and appreciated by all that attended.
- Another event, this time involving local elderly people from Brendoncare and children from St Francis and Knightwood Primary Schools, was a winter bulb planting scheme which has resulted in a delightful display of colour at the Shannon Way roundabout.
- With respect to the parish precept members had regard to the level of balances and also to the deep financial troubles of the country and as a result managed to cut the parish precept by 10%.
- It was particularly disappointing to the Council when Chamberlayne Estates refused Test Valley Borough Council's request to change the covenant on land East of Knightwood Road, to allow allotments to be established. Residents could benefit, not only, from the recreational activity, but also financially during this economic downturn. The Council will continue to lobby TVBC over this issue.
- As a Council we aim to help local residents whenever we can. At the end of 2008 we were able to assist residents by suggesting appropriate planning responses to both Great Covert Planning Application and the Borough Council's Core Strategy.
- We will be installing two new bus shelters in Shannon Way and cleaning the existing bus shelters in Wicklow Drive.

In conclusion I am sure you will all agree that the Parish Council has achieved a great deal throughout 2008/2009. The Parish Council will continue to strive for the best interests of the local community.

Cllr Alan Dowden  
Chairman of Valley Park Parish Council

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S 2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

Hampshire County Council's Council Tax will rise by 1.9% the lowest for many years. This will raise the Band "D" Hampshire County Council tax to £1018 .17p .

The opposition members put forward a budget that involved no increase in Council Tax at all, by proposing to reduce the huge Public Relations spend at the County and taking some money from the £83 million of reserves the County hold.

We are all facing a challenging economic situation and it is times like this we must cut back on unnecessary expenditure and reduce Council Tax.

As the opposition spokesperson I was pleased to support the increased budget allocation for Adult Social Care of 4.8%, which will be well above inflation for the next financial year.

In November 2008 the Hampshire Commission launched

**'Getting Personal' a fair deal for all.** The Commission was set up by the Hampshire County Council and it has resulted in recommendations into how the care system, both nationally and locally, could provide a much better and fairer provision of care, offering social justice for all. This document will allow government an opportunity to include some of the recommendations within the government's own Green Paper, intended to manage and improve care for Older Peoples' Services. As one of the Commissioners I have felt it a privilege to have been involved. We listened to and read a huge amount of information provided by national and local organisations and useful evidence was obtained. Many users and carers had the opportunity to express their concerns and inform us, from their own experiences, on how they felt the care system could and should change.

The Commission have recommended that there should be a provision of choice, which offers a 'universal offer' of help and advice for every person with care and support needs, regardless of their financial position. Free social care for up to eight weeks for all those at risk of hospital admission or facing discharge from hospital and in need of support. An increase in the threshold for means – testing from the present £22,500 to £50,000. In addition, the commission recommends replacing the current charging rules with a national resource allocation system. This would compute a net contribution from public funds for each individual after taking account of the means-tested contribution they should make, whilst still leaving scope for some local discretion.

It has been a testing winter for the Hampshire Highways Department. They have dealt with extreme winter conditions. It is always easy to criticise but officers worked round the clock in an attempt to keep things moving.

I am so pleased at long last the new Flexford cycle / pedestrian footbridge will be installed during this years school summer holidays. Although it may be possible that it could be installed earlier if an earlier slot can be negotiated with Network Rail. It will be mostly funded from developers contributions from the Knightwood & Brendoncare development at Valley Park.

I have been successful in gaining that a 40mph will be introduced on Flexford Road within the

County Council's 2009/10 speed reduction programme.

The Hampshire Accredited Community Support Officers (ACSO's) have been very helpful in Valley Park in keeping Anti- Social behaviour levels to a low level and I must thank them for them for their assistance.

Over the last twelve months, I was able to assist many organisations within my division with grant aid from my HCC Community Grant allocation fund.

The County elections will take place on June 4th and I hope to retain my position as your County Councillor.

**HCC Cllr. Alan Dowden**  
**Baddesley division**

Tele: 023-80266458

e-mail [alan.dowden@hants.gov.uk](mailto:alan.dowden@hants.gov.uk)

### Borough Council Report 2008/9 – Cllr Louise Guy

#### Core Strategy

In March the Council submitted its Core Strategy for housing development to 2026 in Test Valley, to the Secretary of State for examination into its 'soundness'. An inspector has been appointed who will check for legal compliance and establish soundness under the three tests i.e. is the Core Strategy justified, effective and consistent with national policy. Her report will be binding on the Council.

With reference to Valley Park the Core Strategy states that:

*"Valley Park is small compared to Romsey..... it could not contribute to meeting the borough's retail needs through expanding an existing town centre to the same degree as Romsey. Nevertheless, there is an opportunity to build on the existing infrastructure and to build or expand a local centre. However, the gaps between Valley Park and North Baddesley; Valley Park and Ampfield/Chandlers Ford; and Eastleigh and Southampton are important in maintaining the separate identity of settlements. The broad locations considered were to the north west, west and south west of Valley Park. The Sustainability Appraisal indicates that the broad location west of Valley Park is best overall. The broad location to the north west of Valley Park has a high landscape impact and the location south of Valley Park would have a greater impact on the proposed strategic gap. Development west of Valley Park would threaten the relatively narrow gap between it and North Baddesley, reducing separation significantly. It is also a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. There are both surface water and waste water treatment issues at this location. Chickenhall STW is operating at best available technology and this could limit development in this location in the interim. Flood Zone 3a in Chandlers Ford adjoins the site and the impact of developing in this location needs further analysis to check whether this would worsen existing flooding issues."*

An outline planning application, TVBC08/02094/OUTS, had been registered with Test Valley Borough Council for the development of housing (up to 1050 dwellings), commercial buildings, retail, sports facilities, a junior school, medical and community facilities, woodland and recreational area, heat and power plant and associated landscaping, footpaths, cycleways and access on land at Great Covert Park, Castle Lane, North Baddesley.

The Core Strategy does not include development of this magnitude in the Valley Park area and this would infringe the local gap between Valley Park and North Baddesley.

#### Council Tax

Residents of Valley Park will be paying one of the lowest Council Tax amounts in Test Valley. The cost for a band "D" property will be £112.82 per month.

#### Anti Social Behaviour

Jon Whale (HCC Assistant Head of Regulatory Services) advised that resources had increased and the Central Team now had an additional two officers which would give more regular cover in the Valley Park area. The team are working hard to combat anti-social behaviour in Valley Park and can be regularly seen of a weekend patrolling the streets.

#### Alcohol Free Zones

Following the proposal of alcohol free areas for parts of the borough in June 2007 by Alan Dowden, this was implemented in the summer. This has given the police, PCSO's and ACSO's the power to seize and destroy alcohol found on individuals consuming it in Valley Park's public places.

#### Waste and Recycling

Valley Park is taking part in a 2-year pilot project to test the feasibility of recycling cardboard food and drink cartons organised by TVBC in conjunction with Tetra Pak and ACE UK. The scheme currently seems to be a success, as the bins are regularly full.

#### Swimming

Unfortunately, TVBC are not taking part in the Free Swimming programme for the over 60's and under 16's. The Council did not feel that it could subsidise this scheme and the shortfall would have been met by an increase to the Council Tax.

#### Andover Airfield

In my role as a member of the Planning Control Committee, I was involved with the decision making process regarding the development of Andover Airfield. Cllr Alan Dowden and I, along with the other members of the committee passed a planning application for a business park, hotel and warehousing facilities, a £120 million development for Andover Airfield which would create approximately 2,000 jobs.

Finally to the residents, we need your cooperation to help us gain and maintain the quality services and facilities you want in Valley Park. Let us know about your area, we need you to be our eyes and ears and then we can speak and act on your behalf.

I would like to end by thanking my fellow councillors for their help and support throughout the year.