



Merry Christmas

Valley Park Parish Council Newsletter

Edition 20/2014

Andrew Purr : Parish Clerk – Tel: 02380 695277
6 West Horton Lane Bishopstoke Eastleigh SO50 8LR
To keep up to date visit our website at www.valleyparkparish.org



Valley Park under threat of development 300 homes proposed in Castle Lane – ACTION NEEDED NOW!

A planning application has been submitted to Test Valley Borough Council for a new development of 300 houses at Great Covert, on the western margin of Valley Park. The Parish Council knows that local residents do not want another 300 houses on top of the 3,000 that we have already. The developers, who will be aware that residents are less likely to respond to a planning application at this busy time of year, have been requested by the Parish Council to exhibit their proposal to Valley Park residents; however, they have not responded.



Foil it or Spoil it

We are proud that Valley Park has been voted the best place to live in England, so please write to Test Valley Borough Council to stop our area from being over-developed.

Here are some facts about the impact of the proposal on our local area:

- ◆ Great Covert is the woodland along the northern side of Castle Lane. It is situated in a designated "local gap" between North Baddesley and Valley Park. Local gaps are areas where building should be avoided, in order to maintain the separate identity and character of settlements (Policy E3 of the revised 2014 Test Valley Borough Council Local Plan).
- ◆ The woodland is an area of special archaeological interest; therefore, a full archaeological survey of the whole area is required, not just a superficial scoping report.
- ◆ The proposed site is also a SINC (site for nature conservation). Nightjars, which are offered European protection, nest in the area.
- ◆ There are significant waste water and surface water drainage issues at this location, which will place additional strain on the local water treatment works in Eastleigh.
- ◆ The single highway entrance to the development from Castle Lane crosses a Sustrans cycle route, making cycling dangerous at this point.
- ◆ A potential 600 extra cars travelling along Castle Lane will aggravate an already congested through-route between the M3, M27 and A27 and hinder the function of the Park and Ride facility at Wren's Farm.
- ◆ There are already insufficient primary school places for local children. All the schools in Valley Park, Chandlers Ford and North Baddesley are full and have waiting lists.



These are serious issues. Please make your views known.



You can write to **Rachel Illsley, Principal Planning Officer, Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover SP10 3AJ** or email planning@testvalley.gov.uk, quoting application number 14/026/20.



Parish Council Achievements during 2013/14

- ◆ Set the lowest Parish Council Tax in Test Valley – 40% lower than it was eight years ago
- ◆ Protected Valley Park from further housing development in the Revised Local Plan
- ◆ Sought to extend facilities for local children, including improved play parks, a BMX track and a youth club
- ◆ Enhanced the local area again through bulb planting and additional floral displays
- ◆ Secured Traffic Regulatory Orders to address inconsiderate parking throughout Valley Park
- ◆ Reduced levels of anti-social behaviour
- ◆ Provided new bus shelters and more are planned



Tesco Car Park: Pilgrims Close

The Parish Council is pleased to report that, having applied pressure on Tesco and Chamberlayne Estates, the car park and surrounding area at Pilgrims Close has eventually been upgraded and improved.



Winter Bulb Planting 2014



3,000 daffodil bulbs, provided by the Parish Council, were planted by Knightwood and St Francis school children on Knightwood Road during November. In the picture from left to right are Councillors Kath Tilling, Alan Dowden and Clive Anderson. Also pictured on the right is Bryony Williams from Veolia who provided the compost free of charge.

Zionshill Copse: Green Flag Award

In the picture, the three Borough Councillors, Andrew Beesley, Alan Dowden and Kath Tilling, are joined by Test Valley Mayor, Councillor Jan Lovell in receiving the National Green Flag Award. The Friends of the Park had assisted Test Valley Borough Council officers in maintaining the woodlands to a high standard and this had helped in achieving the award.



The annual bulb planting, together with the summer hanging baskets, has helped Valley Park to achieve the accolade of being the best place to live in England. Valley Park won two gold awards in the Test Valley in Bloom competition.

Responsible Dog Ownership

Children from Knightwood School have been helping the Parish Council in its drive to promote responsible dog ownership in the area by designing posters which will be displayed throughout Valley Park.

Love your dog, love Valley Park and please continue to use waste bins appropriately.

