

## 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Valley Park in Bloom



Cllrs Alan Dowden and Christopher Thom supporting children from St Francis CoE and Knightwood Primary Schools

Alan Dowden, Chairman of the Parish Council said "To celebrate this special year, I have asked the Head Teachers of St Francis and Knightwood Primary Schools, along with the children from each schools, to launch our display on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018. My aim, from the start, was to foster respect for the environment in young people by involving them in planting bulbs in the Autumn. We have planted 22,000 bulbs in Valley Park over the years. The pupils are also invited to attend the launch of the summer flowering displays where they have met celebrities from football, TV personalities and a duathlon world champion who is a Valley Park resident. This year, I want to thank them and acknowledge their long term input making Valley Park such an attractive place to live for us all."

"I know how much the displays are appreciated by residents and their visitors, they continually tell me."

*Cllr Alan Dowden*

## Valley Park Council Tax – The Lowest in the Borough

Valley Park has maintained the lowest Council Tax in Test Valley Borough, £12.47 at band D. Amongst the neighbouring parishes, the rates are much higher:

- Ampfield (£43.03)
- Chilworth (£52.80)
- North Baddesley (£55.09)
- Valley Park (£12.47)

The Parish has reduced its element of the Council Tax by a total of 40% since 11 years ago.



## Help Keep Rats Away



Test Valley Borough Council is responding to the Parish Council's concerns over the increase in the rat population and the impact on residents in Valley Park. All residents can help the situation by following these recommendations from Test Valley Borough Council:

### Bird Feeding

Rather than placing food directly onto ground or feed tables, use bird feeders above hard-standing areas and sweep up spillage at the end of the day.



### Household Waste

Place all food waste in bags in wheeled bin ensuring the lid is closed.



### Compost Bins

Use lidded compost bins placed on a solid base: e.g. galvanised steel mesh 25 mm holed size.

### Keeping Chickens

Protect chicken pens with galvanised steel 25 mm hole size mesh surround. Underlain with flagstones or another impenetrable base. Grain dispenser, which limit spillage and stop easy access for rats will help if pens cannot be fully protected.



### Storage of food in sheds and outhouses

Use secure containers for storing fruit/vegetables, pet/bird food in sheds.



### Dog Mess

Clear up any pet mess, regularly, from your garden.



### Outdoor Pet Hutches

Clear up any spillage regularly. Check hutch is secure against rats.



Test Valley Borough Council is undertaking an intensive treatment campaign in the area to address the recent reports of rat sightings. The Borough Council would like to reassure residents that they are working with partners to address the issue.

## New Swings at Wicklow Drive Play Park



Test Valley Borough Council announced that a partial refurbishment of the play area at Wicklow Drive is due shortly. This will include new swings, play unit and improvements to the safer surfacing.

## Have your Say! Consultation on Bus Subsidies and Street Lighting Hours

### Help Save Vital Bus Service 46 Serving Valley Park

Hampshire County Council is asking for residents and stakeholders' views on options for applying budget reductions in subsidies for public transportation and street lighting. The consultation closes at midnight on Sunday 5 August 2018. The questionnaire used during the consultation process can either be completed online or is available for download on the consultation website: [www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/publictransportandstreetlighting](http://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/publictransportandstreetlighting)

