



# Valley Park Parish Council Newsletter

2022 - Spring Edition

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## Mayor of Test Valley Borough Council

Cllr Alan Dowden, Chairman of Valley Park Parish Council, Borough and County Councillor has been elected as Mayor of Test Valley Borough Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May, at an event held at The Guildhall in Andover.

Cllr Alan Dowden said: "I'm incredibly proud to have been elected as this borough's next mayor for the coming year. This is an exciting time in Test Valley, coupled with the multiple celebrations for Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee." During his civic year, Cllr Dowden announced that his Mayoral Appeal would be raising funds for charities that support young people.



## New Commemorative Benches in Valley Park



Valley Park Parish Council purchased three new benches to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee Year, which will be located in three different places in Valley Park.





## Jubilee Celebrations

The lovely weather allowed Valley Park residents to celebrate in style over the Jubilee weekend. Brendoncare held a Jubilee party for their residents and invited the Mayor to join them. Despite being wheelchair bound, following an accident, Cllr Alan Dowden attended and joined in the celebration. He planted a rose tree at Brendoncare to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee.



## Hanging Baskets



The hanging baskets and the troughs this year are bringing a colourful display of different plants and

Three troughs on Knightwood Road have purple lavender to reflect the Jubilee colours.



## Council Tax

Valley Park has maintained the lowest Council Tax in Test Valley Borough by far. In our neighbouring parishes, the rates are much higher. The Parish has reduced its element of the Council Tax by 40% from 13 years ago.

## News in Brief

- Valley Park ward councillors along with Valley Park Parish Council have successfully bid for £30,000 to provide six new Community orchards to add to the existing six already in place in Valley Park. These community orchards will be planted this autumn with traditional English fruit trees and a route will be laid out and sign posted. There will also be more mature trees planted behind Burnham Beeches to assist screening the industrial park buildings.
- Valley Park Parish Council have applied for a trial of a “20 mph is Plenty Zone” along the length of Knightwood Road.
- The playground on the open green area between Taw Drive and Tweed Close is to be repositioned and the equipment upgraded. A consultation will take place.
- Our Parish Council welcome the Ukrainian refugees in Valley Park and have requested free bus passes, which the County have agreed. The Parish Council also approached Places Leisure to provide temporary free membership to leisure facilities for the Ukrainian refugees.
- The bus shelters on Wicklow Drive have been repaired.
- It is disappointing to see the recent graffiti and vandalism around Valley Park. The Parish Council work hard to make our area a special and attractive place for residents. We ask residents to be vigilant and report any incidents or information to the Parish Council. The removal and prevention of graffiti vandalism is very costly to the community.