



# Valley Park Parish Council Newsletter

2025 - Summer Edition

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4 Brue Close, Chandler's Ford, SO53 4SP

For all information related to our Parish, please contact our borough and parish councillors and regularly visit our website at [www.valleyparkparish.org](http://www.valleyparkparish.org) and our Facebook Page @ValleyParkPC

## Valley Park Floral Displays



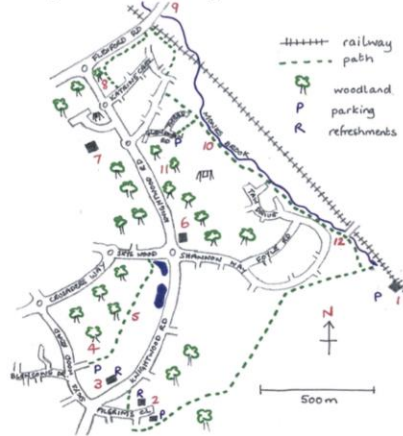
Our summer floral displays are up. Every year, our residents value the open and natural aspect of Valley Park. The local environment has been enhanced over the years with spring bulbs, wild flowers and community orchards.

## The Valley Park Trail

A leaflet on Valley Park Trail was created by one of our local residents, Lorraine Cooke and it provides an opportunity to explore our beautiful area.

A digital version of The Valley Park Trail can be found on the Valley Park Parish Council website: [valleyparkparish.org](http://valleyparkparish.org) and hard copies are available at the Valley Park Community Centre.

### Map of the Valley Park Trail



- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Chandler's Ford Station   | 7 Knightwood Primary School |
| 2 Pilgrim's Close           | 8 Clothier's Copse          |
| 3 Knightwood Leisure Centre | 9 Baddesley Bridge          |
| 4 Zionshill Copse           | 10 Taw/Tweed Greenspace     |
| 5 Badger Bench              | 11 Knightwood               |
| 6 Brendoncare               | 12 Rev W Awdry Bridge       |

### The Valley Park Trail



*"Ancient, magnificent woodland weaves its way across the landscape  
The housing nestles amongst them..." (Angela Breckenridge)*

*"I ploughed my way through the newly formed half-built roads to measure the houses and footpaths [...] that surrounded the woods and fields that now form part of our countryside playground."  
(Simon Hill, Valley Park surveyor, 1980s)*

The Valley Park Trail provides an opportunity to explore the area – on foot, by bike or even from the comfort of your armchair. The complete route is around four miles (6km) but can be split into smaller sections. In late 2024, locals were invited to contribute personal written pieces about Valley Park locations. By following the trail, you can learn a little about the places that inspired their creativity. The trail will take you from one end of Valley Park to the other, from the oldest to the most modern parts and with glimpses of a time between. You will discover history and imagination and come to appreciate how strong the sense of place is for the people of Valley Park.

#### 1. Chandler's Ford Railway Station

The line between Romsey and Eastleigh opened in 1847 but Chandler's Ford station closed to passengers in 1969. Following the development of Valley Park, calls to reopen began in 1999. A new station building was erected and the station was officially opened by local celebrity gardener Charlie Dimmock in 2003. To date, Chandler's Ford is the only station in Hampshire to reopen to passengers.



## Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

The Hampshire County Council Elections for this May, 2025, were postponed, to allow preparation for Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation. Therefore, I still am the County Councillor for the Baddesley Division until the new elections take place.

### What is Devolution?

Devolution means the transfer of powers and funding from Whitehall to local areas by creating regional Strategic Authorities with an elected Mayor, covering populations of over 1.5 million.

### Hampshire and the Solent devolution

A devolution agreement would create a new single body, known as a Strategic Authority. The Strategic Authority would cover the combined geographic area of Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. This combined area will be known as Hampshire and the Solent.

**The Hampshire and the Solent Strategic Authority** will be led by a directly elected Mayor. Subject to the approval of the devolution agreement, the first Mayoral election in Hampshire and the Solent is expected to take place in May 2026. Our partners are: Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils, Isle of Wight Council and Hampshire District and Borough Councils.



In Hampshire, local government services are currently provided by one county council and 11 district and borough councils. For example, some services such as adults' and children's social care, education, highways and countryside services are the responsibility of Hampshire County Council.

Others, such as planning and waste collection, are the responsibility of Test Valley Borough Council.

Local government reorganisation (LGR) would completely change the landscape of Hampshire's local councils by replacing the current two-tier council system and neighbouring Unitary Councils of Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight with a number of large new unitary (all-purpose) councils.

County, district and borough councils, alongside our neighbouring Unitary Councils, will be replaced by a small number of new unitary councils. Services currently provided by the current councils will transfer to the new unitary councils.

Council Leaders across Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton are currently in discussions about what local government reorganisation will look like in our region.

The Government has asked for councils to submit final proposals for LGR by September 2025. Final decisions will then be taken by Government ministers.

These proposals will be informed by wide engagement with residents, local partners and other stakeholders. Once a proposal has been submitted, it will be for the Government to decide on whether a proposal is taken forward, and to consult on the proposal.

The new unitary councils are expected to become operational from 2027 or 2028.



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION DRAFT LOCAL PLAN 2042 - ACTION REQUIRED

Test Valley's Draft Local Plan 2042, Revised Regulation 18 is out for consultation from 27th June - 5th September 2025 for 10 weeks.

Ward Cllrs Alan and Celia Dowden consider:

- This Plan lacks ambition and is purely a reaction to central government direction. It lacks innovative policies and vision.
- It concentrates the majority of development in existing settlements impacting the quality of life of residents.
- Eroding any Local Gaps risks permanent damage to our local environment.
- There should be a fairer distribution of the homes across the borough.
- There should be consideration of establishing one or two garden villages, building with eco homes and infrastructure, using the latest technologies.

The Local Plan sets out how development will be planned and delivered across Test Valley. It is prepared in line with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and sets out what a Local Plan must do including identifying how many homes and employment land we need. The government revised the NPPF increasing Test Valley's housing numbers from 524 to 934 per year, 15,878 homes over 17 years.

In the Regulation 18 the sites in our area are:

- Land at Velmore Farm, off Templars Way, 1,070 homes and an employment area
- North of Flexford Road is identified for 200 homes

The Valley Park Parish Council will be commenting on the Revised Regulation 18 and now members of the public - in responding to this consultation - have the opportunity to raise any or all of these points in their own comments. We would like to urge you to do so!

The areas on which you may wish to have your say may be:

- Traffic Congestion - 2,700+ more vehicles onto all local roads, with a significant impact at peak times. Reduction in air quality with impact on health.
- Local Health Services, doctors and dentists - The pressure from the huge increase of patients.
- Breach of two Local Gaps at each end of our Ward - The loss of Open Green Space and damage to our local environment.
- Issues currently with surface water flooding from these areas onto local highways and land around Valley Park.
- Impact on the River Itchen, a Special area of Conservation.

The Draft Local Plan, Revised Regulation 18 is available to view online at: [www.testvalley.gov.uk/localplan2042](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/localplan2042)

Copies can also be viewed at:

- TVBC Council Offices, 13 Church Street, Romsey
- Local Libraries - Chandlers Ford, North Baddesley, Romsey
- A public exhibition will be held, at the Community Centre on 9th July 2025 at 3.30pm - 6.30pm

Comments:

By Email: [planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk) - via an online survey or email

By Post: Planning Policy and Economic Development, Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover, SP10 3AJ