



**Test Valley Association  
of  
Parish and Town Councils**

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**Minutes of the Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils  
of the Test Valley Borough Council  
held via Microsoft Teams  
on Thursday 23 February 2023 at 7.30 pm**

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**Welcome**

Clive Ward, Chairman of the Association welcomed those present. He covered what was on the agenda for the evening. He reported that Emma has done some good work on the website which will be covered later on the agenda.

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**TVBC Corporate Plan - local priorities**

Charlotte Starkie, Policy Manager, Test Valley Borough Council presented details of the outcomes of the deliberative engagement work from the Corporate Plan development process and reflected on what this might mean for communities in Test Valley.

Deliberative engagement is the process of delving deeper into issues, by posing several questions around why something has been highlighted from the lived experience of the residents of the Borough. It provides a greater understanding of people's aspirations and needs and enabled the council to involve the residents of the Borough in helping to shape future policy.

The selection and recruitment process was carried out using various channels and social media and the selection was based on availability, gender, age, location, work status and other demographics that match the Borough residents.

Four deliberative engagement workshops were held in November 2022 led by Involve who are international leaders in public participation. There were 120 participants and 25 facilitators. The outcome of those workshops resulted in 5 key principles that should be included in the decision making process and 12 themes based on adding value to support a thriving community.

The five key principles were;

- Sustainability (long lasting benefits)
- Connection (between communities, people and places)
- Inclusion (communities, partners, people)
- Prosperity (positive economic growth)
- Environment – natural and climate responsibilities)

The 12 themes that would add the most value to communities were;

- Protect local wildlife and nature for the future
- Support access to local green spaces and parks
- Ensure local community facilities and affordable and accessible
- Support central locations that bring community together and where people can meet
- Build thriving communities so people want to stay living in the area
- Create strong communities with a sense of belonging
- Make the most of existing facilities, venues and spaces
- Invite participation and involvement
- Celebrate diversity and inclusivity
- Support a cultural identity for people to take part in and appreciate as a community
- Support volunteering
- Support communication and connectedness

The five principles will be the golden thread that run through the strategic priorities of the council.

The strategic priorities will be place-based, where we recognize the different identities and needs within communities within the Borough and tailor our offer accordingly.

Specific actions are being considered and a draft Corporate Plan is being prepared ready for publication in April 2023.

In response to a number of questions Charlotte explained that Climate Emergency is at the top of the Council's agenda and the Climate Emergency Action Plan sits alongside the Corporate Plan. The next stage in the process will be to present the final Corporate Plan to Council in April where it will be adopted however the plan will not be launched until after the Elections in May.

During Covid the Council worked extremely closely with Unity and had an amazing success with volunteers however this has fallen off. Charlotte reported that the Council and Unity are aware of the crisis in the voluntary sector and will look at ways to fill the gaps.

There is an issue with listed building and older buildings in villages when trying to make them more efficient. Legislation encourages people to make their homes more efficient however the listed building legislation makes it difficult to make the changes.

Charlotte explained that Councillor Matthews who was the Council's Armed Forces Champion had resigned as a Borough Councillor and that the partnership group had agreed to carry on without a Chairman until after the Elections.

The Council are working with developers to ensure a mix of properties which includes social and affordable housing in rural areas. Each area is different and the mix will depend on the needs of the community. It was mentioned that at Southern Area Planning Committee it appears that a lot of villagers are against social and affordable housing in their community.

### **3 Feedback on the new Association Website**

Clive Ward asked for feedback on the Association's new website which is hosted on Test Valley Borough Council's server. Emma Horbury created the website and there is an opportunity for the Association to move it forward. The website has a link to all Councillor address plus links to HALC and NALC.

Test Valley Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee have set up a panel to look at how the Council communicates with residents. This included the Council's website and other forms of communication. She asked that if anyone has any suggestions to let her know.

Clive Ward will ask Emma Horbury to add the minutes to the website and an area for presentations to be included. It was suggested that a link to the website is posted on the Association Facebook page.

Clive Ward thanked Test Valley Borough Council for their support with the website and asked if anyone has any comments to let Emma Horbury know and copy in Clive Ward.

### **4 Parish and Town Update and Information Sharing**

Christian Dryden informed the meeting that the Longparish bus service C3/4 will cease from April and hasn't heard if anything is going to replace it. If a service is going to be stopped there should be something already in place to replace it. It is important that residents use the bus service or they will lose it. She has put this information into the March issue of the Parish magazine.

West Tytherly no bus service to Andover or Romsey except early morning and late afternoon. Longstock lost their buses some time ago but use a shared taxi service and the Unity bus. The taxi service only works if you speak to Dawn rather than leave a message on their answer machine.

Clive Ward was going to attend an event at the Weyhill Fair run by Councillor Adams King but this had been cancelled.

Dorothy Baverstock reminded everyone that there will be a tourism event where anyone that is involved in tourism is invited on Wednesday 1 March in the Guildhall from 10am to 2pm

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### **Items for Future Meetings**

Clive Ward mentioned a workshop on the development of the preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy on 22 June and encouraged everyone to attend.

Items for future meetings;

- Climate change environmental issues – to discuss and promote what is going on in Parishes and to look at the Council’s Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- Invite Councillor Adams King to attend to give an idea what HCC programme of repairing potholes are over the next few years.

Clive Ward and Fiona Collier will be speaking to all Parishes about what they would like to see at the Joint Annual Conference with Test Valley Parish Council.

Dorothy Baverstock reported that Romsey Extra Parish Council will be abolished on 1 April and the area will be incorporated into Romsey Town Council.

Forthcoming meetings:

- 22 June 2023
- 30 September 2023 – Joint Annual conference with TVBC
- 23 November 2023