

Test Valley Partnership News

December 2007



Dear Partners,

As the year is drawing to a close, I'd like to thank all members of Test Valley Partnership for making 2007 a year of successful partnership working in which we have celebrated many achievements. Let's look forward to even more in 2008!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Janet

Janet Blann, Chairman of Test Valley Partnership

Test Valley Business Awards

The fourth Test Valley Business Awards was launched on Tuesday 2 October 2007 by Sally Taylor, MBE, presenter of BBC South Today and BBC Radio Solent. Guests heard Sally announce the Awards are now open to entries.



Sally Taylor said: "I am delighted to announce the opening of the latest Test Valley Business Awards. Our culture of entrepreneurship enables people to start

businesses, but it is hard work. The good news is that many guests here today, who won Awards last year, are living proof that successful businesses can be built and grown.

The Awards have become a strong force in the Test Valley community by celebrating the success of local businesses, across all sectors. I encourage you to enter your business and to tell your friends and colleagues about the benefits of taking part in the Awards."

Entries can be submitted online or in hard copy until the closing date of 31 December 2007. Please visit www.tvbawards.org.uk

The Award categories are:

- The Frobisher Limited Rural Business Award (New Award - New Sponsor)
- The CTC Aviation Group plc Award for Innovation (New Sponsor)
- The HSAB Business Excellence through People Award.
- Test Valley Borough Council New Business of the Year Award.
- Hampshire County Council Small Business of the Year Award.

For more information please contact David Gleave, Economic Development Officer on 01264368309 or email dgleave@testvalley.gov.uk

Andover Vision Community Website Launch



Andover's brand new community website launches this month and to celebrate we are offering a fabulous prize, the brand new iPod touch and £15 of iTunes downloads.

To be in with a chance of winning log on to www.andovervision.co.uk/competition

The Andover Vision site is a free community site packed full of local information including, news, events, forums - to share your ideas/views, competitions and lots of updates on some of the exciting projects that Andover Vision is involved in.

It is our aim to build an events calendar for the whole town. Hopefully, this will assist organisers when choosing a date for their event, and it will be the place to cross reference against other activities happening on that day ensuring the best possible turnout for you.

The success of this site depends on our community so if you are aware of or involved in a club or organisation that hold events, please get in touch and we will post any information on the site as soon as possible. We also need lots of news and photos too.

If you would like to submit an event, please email events@andovervision.co.uk and don't forget to include location, dates and

times. We can also accept photos (jpegs) and pdf files of poster/flyers etc. Any further enquiries, please email sue@andovervision.co.uk

www.andovervision.co.uk

Askalot One-stop community info shop

A special community information shop on Andover's King Arthur's Way officially opened on the 18th October. The shop provides local people with easy access to information, support and computer to use.

At various times during the week, the police, youth and parenting experts, health workers, Testway Housing staff and family learning co-ordinators will be on hand. At other times Test Valley Borough Council neighbourhood wardens, benefit officers and organisations involved in community and family activities can give advice and support.

Community computers - for homework, training or other IT based projects - can also be used any time the shop is open.

Although the shop is found at the King Arthur's Way shops, it isn't just for King Arthur's Way residents. It is open to all the local community, particularly the rest of the Alamein ward, which covers Roman Way, Viking Way, Cricketers Way, Enham Alamein, Smannell and Little London too.

The current opening times can be found at the shop or at the Test Valley Partnership's website www.yourtestvalley.com, on the Test Valley Borough Council website www.testvalley.gov.uk, and the Testway website www.testway.co.uk.

The new shop is part of the Test Valley Partnership's Turnaround Project which aims to improve facilities and opportunities for people living in the Alamein ward.

For more information contact Marianne Piggan, Community Support Officer, TVBC, 01264 368623, e-mail mpiggan@testvalley.gov.uk

Or David Bell, Head of Housing Services, Testway Housing, 01264 405542 or email info@testway.co.uk.

Community Grant Opportunities

Community groups can still bid for grants!

Community groups across Test Valley still have time to apply for a grant to help their New Year resolution come true.

There are still some funds available for community groups, charities, Parish Councils, village halls, and community centres. Applications for funding will be considered by Test Valley Borough Council's Grants Panel in February and the deadline for applications is 22nd January 2008.

A number of groups have already successfully applied and been awarded funding this year, including:

- Andover Hard of Hearing - awarded £450 revenue funding
- Traditional Arts Project - awarded £2,200 revenue funding
- Nursling and Rownhams Village Hall - awarded £17,194 capital funding

So if you know a group that would like to get next year off to a really good start, you can contact Marianne Piggan,

Community Support Officer, on 01264 368623 or e-mail mpiggan@testvalley.gov.uk

Parish Plans – Community Planning in Test Valley!

At their meeting in October the Test Valley Partnership Board endorsed the Houghton & Bossington Parish Plan – the first Plan to be completed following the Rural Conference in March and the launch of the Partnership's commitment to Parish Plans in Test Valley.

The Board also officially endorsed our two existing Plans from the parishes of Kings Somborne and Longparish.

Parish Plans provide an opportunity for everyone in the community to be heard; to identify common priorities through consultation and involvement, and come together to find ways of achieving ambitions for the local community by using local resources and working with other organisations.

Test Valley now has three endorsed Parish Plans, and many more are being developed, including in Ampfield and Sherfield English.

The development of Parish Plans is a real example of a partnership approach, with Parish Councils, Community Action Hampshire, Test Valley Borough Council, Test Valley Association of Town and Parish Councils, local volunteers and our rural communities all working together in their completion.

For more information contact Alison Murley, Test Valley Partnership's Community Development Action Group Coordinator on 01264 368622 or email amurley@testvalley.gov.uk

Alternatively visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/parishplans for more detail on Parish Plans in Test Valley, including our local guidance.

A Long Term Economic Strategy for Test Valley

The Economic Development Action Group has made a valuable contribution to the review of Test Valley's Long Term Economic Strategy, which was undertaken by Experi and during 2007. The strategy will provide the framework for economic policy being pursued by Test Valley Borough Council and by other partner agencies for the next 20 years.

Copies of Test Valley's Long Term Economic Strategy available from dgleave@testvalley.gov.uk

For more information please contact David Gleave, Economic Development Officer on 01264368309 or email dgleave@testvalley.gov.uk

Education and Learning Action Group Update

Successes:

- ❖ *'A Celebration of Lifelong Learning in Test Valley'*

The world of education and learning continues to change at what appears to be an accelerating pace - and despite so much being achieved at every level - the messages are not always clear.

Therefore, to celebrate education and learning in Test Valley a brief update has been produced to show what partnership working means for education and learning with examples of how things come together.

To view "A Celebration of Lifelong Learning in Test Valley" leaflet - see <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=6385>

- ❖ *Pre - employment Training Courses*

Working together with Jobcentre Plus, the Education and Learning Action Group are putting on two sets of 3 day courses (Nov '07 & Jan '08) to help those on benefits who want to find work prepare for employment. Aimed in particular at retail jobs, the training is being delivered by Basingstoke College of Technology (which is a Centre for Vocational Excellence in retailing and distribution).

Forthcoming:

- ❖ *The Business of Learning Conference*

This will be held on Thursday 6 March 2008 at The Lights and is being put on by Test Valley Borough Council, Andover Consortium, Andover Vision and First Partnership. Its aim is to bring Andover schools and businesses closer together to better understand what each can give, and needs from the other.

- ❖ *Hampshire Parenting Conference*

Hampshire County Council is holding its annual parenting conference on the 19th March 2008. Workshops will be

held at this event on Family Learning and Partnership Working based on the Test Valley experience.

For more information please contact David Gleave, Economic Development Officer on 01264368309 or email dgleave@testvalley.gov.uk

A Children & Young People's Plan for Test Valley

A partnership event was held at Test Valley Borough Council on the 30th November to move forward the development of a Children & Young People's Plan for Test Valley. A wider range of partners attended and the event generated a good deal of enthusiasm, including a proposed list of representatives for a steering group to take work forward.

The next steps for the Children's and Young People Plan will be outlined at the January Test Valley Partnership Board Meeting.

For more information please contact Lyn Penny, lyn.penny@hants.gov.uk or Verna Brown vbrown@testvalley.gov.uk.

Partnership Contact Details

For further information on Test Valley Partnership please contact Penny Lane, Policy & Performance Manager, Test Valley Borough Council, 01264368105, plane@testvalley.gov.uk