



Your Test Valley

7th Annual Report



Test Valley
PARTNERSHIP

Foreword

I am delighted to present to you the seventh Annual Report of the Test Valley Partnership.

The Test Valley Partnership brings together a wide range of partners from across the statutory sector, the voluntary, community sector and the private sector with the single aim of working together to improve the quality of life for the people of Test Valley.

During 2008 / 2009 the Partnership has continued to build upon its strong foundations and as a result has enabled partners to come together and develop new joint projects which are having a real impact on our communities in Test Valley.

This year has also seen the development of our Joint Areas of Focus which have provided real clarity for the issues that the Partnership will tackle over the coming year. The Joint Areas of Focus are not only issues that partners recognise as important, but that they can also be communicated and are relevant to wider stakeholders and our communities.

The Annual Report this year is a selection of case studies from across the Partnership to illustrate how the Test Valley Partnership is making a difference and the range of projects it is involved in. There are many examples that could be included but we have chosen a small selection which we hope you will find interesting.

This year promises to be an exciting yet challenging one as we continue to build upon the opportunities where the partnership can add value. With the backdrop of the current economic climate and the ongoing need for partners to be joined up in the delivery of services, the Test Valley Partnership has a really important role to play.

I would like to thank all of our partners for their continued support of the Test Valley Partnership and for your ongoing drive and commitment in helping us to achieve our goals together!

Janet

Janet Blann
Chairman of Test Valley Partnership



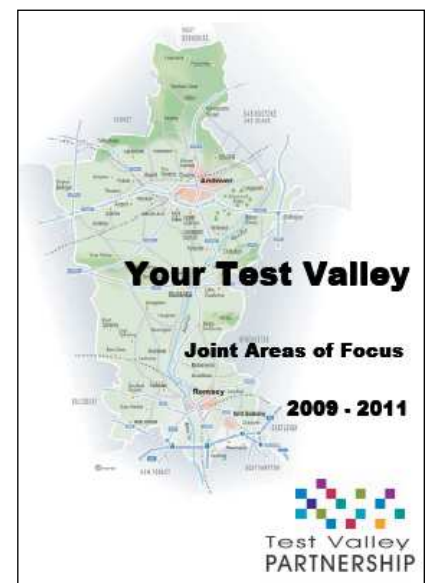
Joint Areas of Focus

To achieve progress against the Community Plan, partners through the Test Valley Partnership have identified a number of “**Joint Areas of Focus**” (JAF). The Joint Areas of Focus are about issues currently affecting the area and are those that require a partnership approach in the short to medium term. The Joint Areas of Focus bring together local priorities alongside wider ones from within the Local Area Agreement and the Local Development Framework.

Having in place a single set of cross cutting Joint Areas of Focus will enable the Partnership to co-ordinate its activity effectively, to be consistent in its overall approach and enable the Partnership to be able to better demonstrate the impact it is having in meeting the challenges in Test Valley.

The Joint Areas of Focus for 2009 – 2012 are:

1. Domestic Abuse
2. Alcohol
3. Anti Social Behaviour
4. Support more cohesive and resilient communities in targeted areas of Test Valley
5. Reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system
6. Raising the educational attainment of children and young people in targeted areas of Test Valley
7. Breaking down barriers to Adult & Community learning opportunities in Test Valley
8. Co-ordinating the delivery of the new neighbourhoods in Test Valley
9. Reducing Obesity in Test Valley
10. Reducing the rising trend of Teenage Pregnancy in Test Valley
11. Reducing health inequalities in targeted areas of Test Valley and amongst vulnerable groups
12. Support Businesses. Organisations and Communities in Test Valley to act sustainably and to reduce their carbon emissions
13. Supporting the development of the Rural Economy
14. Identify innovative solutions so that vulnerable and isolated groups can access key services



Case Study 1: Responding to the Recession

Community Plan Themes:

Education & Lifelong Learning

Local Communities

Economy

During early 2009 it became clear that the recession was having a far reaching impact and was not specific to a particular sector. As a result Test Valley has seen an increase in unemployment figures, vacant business premises and more people accessing services such as Job Centre Plus and Citizens Advice. It was felt that the Partnership should address this issue and bring agencies together to explore how we can respond to this new challenge.

The Test Valley Partnership hosted a half day conference on Monday 27th April 2009 designed to help those agencies responsible for supporting people who have lost their job, work together more closely.

70 delegates from 34 organisations attended the event which illustrated perfectly the willingness to understand what is happening, share best practice and to work more closely together.

Some of the main themes to emerge from the conference are:-

- the need for an outreach Jobcentre plus service for Romsey
- promoting volunteering among the rapidly growing number of unemployed - a pilot project involving Andover Jobcentre Plus and TVCS is in train
- promoting among businesses the free service Jobcentre Plus offers to advise employees under threat of redundancy in their workplace



The conference, and the work coming out of it, contributes to JAF 6, "Raising educational attainment in targeted areas of Test Valley" and JAF 8, "Breaking down barriers to Adult and Community learning opportunities in Test Valley."

Case Study 2: Walking Challenge

Community Plan Themes:

Health & Wellbeing

Education & Lifelong Learning

The aim of the Walking Challenge is to increase the physical activity of children through their primary school by setting a challenge for the school to walk a set distance. In 2009 the challenge was to walk the equivalent distance from their school to Wimbledon, where the tennis championships were being held.

The pilot ran from September to December 2008 in the Test Valley School Cluster. In May-June 2009 the Walking Challenge was launched in the North of Test Valley and the Central Test Valley Clusters and the project is due to be launched in the South of Test Valley in October 2009 with a "Children in Need" Walking Challenge.

The challenge supported Primary Schools to become more physically active, working towards the government recommendation for 5 x 30 minutes of physical activity by promoting walking as an activity that can be done in and out of school time, independently, with friends or with family.

The Walking Challenge contributes towards JAF 9 "Reducing Obesity" and JAF 11 "Reducing Health Inequalities in targeted areas".

"We have really enjoyed the whole challenge and are really looking forward to hearing the results" (School who took part in the Wimbledon Challenge 09).

"We have just finished our walking challenge, run by the Year 6's who motivated a different class each and encouraged the whole school to walk our teddy trail. Our total miles at the end of this 4 week block were: 5371 - so we definitely got our tennis players to Wimbledon and beyond. Thank you for organising such a great challenge" (School who took part in the Wimbledon Challenge 2009).



"The pupils thought the challenge was excellent and we would love to it again" (School who took part in the Wimbledon Challenge 09).

Case Study 3: Smoke Free Campaign - Turnaround Project

Community Plan Themes:

Health & Wellbeing

Local Communities

The “Smoke Free” campaign is being delivered within the Alamein ward as part of the Test Valley Partnership’s Turnaround project. The project aims to:

- Increase awareness of the Smoke Free campaign within the target ward.
- Increase awareness and take up of the local Stop Smoking Service.
- Increase awareness of the impact second-hand smoke can have within the home.
- Increase protection from second-hand smoke for children
- Reduce the uptake of young people smoking within the target area.

Attendance at the smoke cessation courses hosted by Quit for Life at the Askalot shop has been very good. Free training sessions have been arranged for any person working in the Alamein ward to increase their awareness of smoke cessation courses and methods to increase their confidence and ability to discuss with clients where appropriate. Work is also underway with two primary schools in the ward working with Year 5 pupils on smoking education, focusing on second-hand smoke and smoke-free homes and environments

“Smoke free Turnaround” contributes towards JAF 11 “Reducing health inequalities in targeted areas and vulnerable groups.”



Case Study 4: Delivery of the New Neighbourhoods

Community Plan Themes:

Local Communities
Health & Wellbeing
Community Safety
Education & Lifelong Learning
Leisure & Culture
Economy
Environment
Transport

The aim of the project is to bring together relevant organisations in Test Valley to prepare for and help manage the growth in population resulting from the development of our new neighbourhoods. A key part of this project is to involve new and existing residents in the delivery of the new neighbourhoods, to ensure communities are well integrated and empowered to make decisions affecting their local area. The project started in March 2009 and is ongoing as the new neighbourhoods across the Borough begin to take shape.

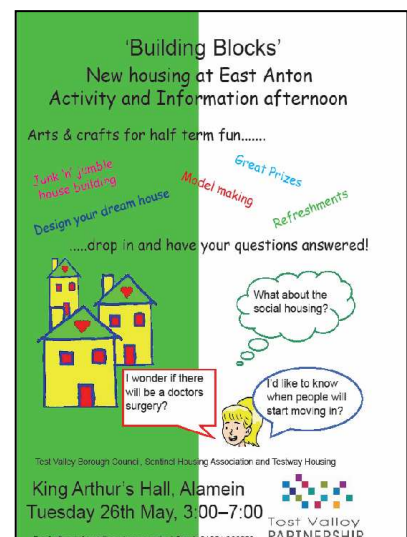
In March, a workshop was held for partners to identify issues around the development of the new neighbourhoods and develop a management structure for preparing for and managing growth. The workshop identified that each new neighbourhood should have its own 'site-specific' delivery group, which would act as a forum for sharing information about local needs and helping to shape delivery of services and community development from arrival of the first residents. Key outcomes from the site-specific delivery groups that need action would be fed through the Test Valley Partnership structure where appropriate.

In May, a community activity and information day was held for residents living alongside the first new neighbourhood in Andover (East Anton). The event provided detailed maps and information on progress for local people, and a range of activities including junk 'n' jumble house building for young people.

In July the first meeting of the East Anton delivery group was held. This brought together front-line organisations (GPs, police, CVS etc) to share information about who is arriving in the new communities, visit the site and outline how we are going to work together to prepare for growth

Plans for the future include involving schools and colleges in the development and construction process, and maintaining the East Anton delivery group.

The ongoing work is contributing towards JAF 8, 'Coordinating the delivery of new neighbourhoods in Test Valley'



Case Study 5: Parish Plans

Community Plan Themes:

Local Communities

Parish plans set out a shared vision for the community over the next 10 years. They are developed by the local community and the plan is then endorsed by the local Parish Council.

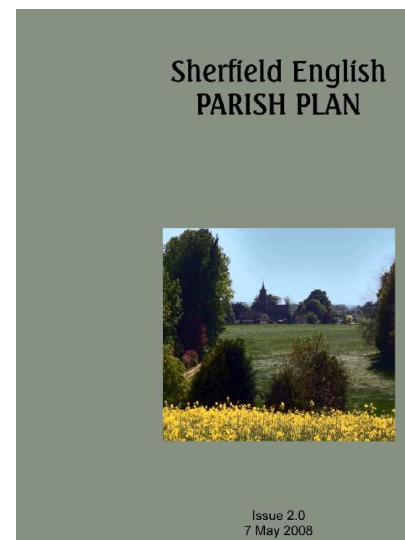
Parish Plans address a wide range of issues and as a result the Test Valley Partnership endorses the plans and refers them to partners as appropriate. To date six parish plans have been completed in Test Valley, one parish plan has been endorsed by the Partnership this year and two new parish plans are at consultation stage and five are on-going.

During 2009, the Sherfield English Parish Plan was endorsed by the Partnership and over the last year both Grateley and North Baddesley have started the Parish Plan process. Grateley Parish Council sent out an expression of interest in the parish newsletter and North Baddesley Parish Council, with support from Community Action Hampshire and Test Valley Borough Council carried out its initial consultation exercise at a fun day in June.

Parishes who have completed plans are continuing to take forward the actions identified in their plan. For example, Barton Stacey has recently produced a Business & Leisure Map of the Parish.

To further encourage Parish Planning, the Community Development Action Group has agreed to hold a Parish Planning Surgery workshop in conjunction with Community Action Hampshire, to raise the profile of Parish Plans and alleviate any concerns a parish might have about completing a plan.

Parish Plans contribute to JAF 4, 'Support more cohesive and resilient communities in targeted areas of Test Valley'



Case Study 6: Not in My Neighbourhood – Halloween & Bonfire Campaign

Community Plan Themes:

Community Safety
Leisure & Culture
Local Communities

In 2008 the Test Valley Partnership used the “Not in My Neighbourhood Week” to launch the Halloween and Bonfire campaign message. The aim of this project was to tackle three main areas of concern which were criminal damage, rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour and arsons.

Anti-social Behaviour and tolerance were the key messages throughout with radio interviews and community messages played daily; local newspapers followed the story and published crime prevention advice. Officers from the Council and Police spoke to school children, community groups and targeted hotspots with leaflets. Following the week long activities, trading standards and council wardens provided shop keepers with advice regarding selling flour and eggs to children. Halloween night saw Police, Wardens and ACSOs linking up to target hotspots across Test Valley. In addition one of our Neighbourhood Wardens helped to organise and run a Halloween party/disco in the Phoenix Centre which attracted 75 young people.

The combined operation delivered a **58.3%** reduction in criminal damage, a **64.3%** reduction in rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour and a **74%** reduction in arson calls for that period.



We are planning more activities for 2009, building on our achievements to date. The key to the success of this campaign has been partner engagement, with agencies having a clear understanding of objectives and working together to ensure their delivery.

This project contributes to JAF 3, “Anti–social behaviour” and is a key priority area resulting from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Plan.

Case Study 7: “Inside Out” – Turnaround Project

Community Plan Themes:

Local Communities
Health & Wellbeing
Leisure & Culture
Education & Lifelong Learning
Community Safety

The aim of the “Inside Out” project was to involve the community within the Alamein ward in an intergenerational project, closing the gap between young people and older members of the community. The project took place from December 2008 to March 2009.

“Inside Out” involved residents recording a number of case studies and producing a film in which to showcase them. The project developed closer bonds between residents of different generations and provided an opportunity to learn new skills, particularly those associated with filming and photography. The project also provided an opportunity to increase awareness of the Askalot Community shop to community members and to raise awareness of the Turnaround Project and the activities/groups it provides.

The first showing of “Inside Out” was held outside the Entertainer pub where the film was projected against the wall in the car park. A large number of residents gathered to watch the premiere of the film making it a lively community event.



“Learnt how to use digital cameras more effectively”

“Enjoyed the experience of working with professionals – i.e. photographer & producer”

“Made dreams come true”

“An opportunity to do something with the community rather than to”

Inside Out has contributed towards JAF 4 “Support more cohesive and resilient communities in targeted areas of Test Valley.”

Case Study 8: Community street audits for Romsey Town Access Plan

Community Plan Themes:

Transport

Local Communities

During June 2009 street audits were undertaken in Romsey to inform the preparation of the Town Access Plan for Romsey. A Town Access Plan is a strategy which sets out a shared vision for how access to facilities and services within a town will be improved. The aim was to include representation from as many different community groups as possible to ensure that the accessibility needs of all different sections of the population could be taken into account.

Partners from across a range of organisations such as Romsey Disability Forum, Romsey branch of the National Childbirth Trust, Romsey and District Society, Romsey 2020 and parents from local schools were among those who took part in the walks along with Hampshire County Council and Test Valley Borough Council. They helped to identify some of the main issues for accessibility for pedestrians on main routes around the town. These included issues such as the need for crossing points in particular locations, lack of dropped kerbs on some strategic routes, poor surfacing and narrow pavements. A detailed report of the issues has been prepared from the information recorded.

The results will be used, along with other studies that have been carried out by local groups such as the Look at Romsey Project, work by Romsey 2020, School Travel Plans and various transport studies of the town, to identify the main issues relating to accessibility by all modes of transport in Romsey.



This information will then be used by Hampshire County Council and Test Valley Borough Council to prepare the Town Access Plan for Romsey. The document will include an action plan that can be used to secure and direct funding to respond to the accessibility needs of Romsey residents.

This project contributes towards JAF 14, "Identify innovative solutions so that vulnerable and isolated groups can access key services."

Case Study 9: Community Respect Environmental Weeks (CREW)

Community Plan Themes:

Community Safety
Environment
Local Communities

The aim of the CREW events is to work with the community, to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime, and to undertake activities to improve and enhance the environment in the chosen local neighbourhood. CREW brings together the key partners to deliver a week long programme of focused activity in that area.

The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership's Joint Action Group identifies the areas that the CREW will visit during the year. During the last year CREW's have visited the following areas:

- Pilgrims/River Way – 5th and 6th March 2008
- Woodley Area, Romsey – 26th and 27th March 2008
- Andover Town Centre – 11th – 17th August 2008
- Cricketers Way/Roman Way - 3rd – 7th August 2009
- Romsey Area – 17th – 21st August 2009

In each CREW area a number of environmental activities such as grass cutting, litter clearance, fly tip removal and the removal of graffiti and fly posting were undertaken. The police carried out a number of actions which achieved results and there was a sense of community satisfaction from the visual impact of patrols and residents meeting their local Police Community Support Officers and Police Officers.

Following the CREW event, any work that is identified that cannot be achieved during the week is then investigated or rectified as soon as possible by partner agencies.

Each CREW has helped to shape future events by recognising the areas that need developing. For example, in order for the CREW events to build upon their success, more involvement of the local community is needed and this has been reflected in the development of a community engagement stream.

The CREW Events contribute towards JAF 3 "Anti-social Behaviour" and JAF 4 "Support more Cohesive and Resilient Communities."



Case Study 10: Test Valley Alcohol Project

Community Plan Themes:

Health & Wellbeing
Community Safety
Education & Lifelong Learning
Local Communities

The aim of the project was to raise awareness of the risks of excessive alcohol use amongst young people and their parents. Delivering this as a partnership project has ensured the key agencies are able to promote a consistent message.

The project has delivered the following:

- Production of an information leaflet for parents entitled '**Keep your child safe – Your Child and Alcohol**'. The leaflet is being distributed via schools, GP surgeries, Connexions and sent out by the Police with warning letters to parents when young people are caught drinking alcohol when under age.
- Delivery of the Solomon Theatre Production '**Last Orders**' to year 9 in all secondary schools in Test Valley. "Last Orders" tells the story of the impact excessive drinking can have and its far reaching affects. The production is followed by a one hour workshop designed to explore the issues in more detail.
- Parent evenings delivered at Winton, Harrow Way and Romsey Community Schools to raise awareness of risks to health and safety of their children in respect to alcohol misuse.
- Partnership DVD with contributions from partners, parents and teachers highlighting how this joint approach can help tackle issues such as alcohol in a more effective way.



“The production was very good and hard hitting that I think made some of the young people think about their own consumption of alcohol and the devastating affects it can have.”

“Excellent Q&A after the play (workshop). Really informative in a way that the pupils would understand”

This project contributes to JAF 2 “Alcohol”, JAF 3 “Reduce Anti-social Behaviour”, JAF 10 “Reducing the rising trend of Teenage Pregnancy”.

Case Study 11: Test Valley Partnership Mobile Unit

Community Plan Themes:

Education & Lifelong Learning
Community Safety
Health & Wellbeing
Leisure & Culture
Local Communities

The mobile unit is a joint venture across Test Valley which aims to deliver services within rural areas. These include: Children's Centres, youth services, community education, play work, School Sports Partnership, Hampshire County Council, and Test Valley Voluntary services.

The vehicle will be used fortnightly in each area for a range of activities including:

- Parent / toddler pop in
- Employment Skills
- Play activities
- Sports activities
- ICT training
- Family learning
- Baby clinics
- Information, advice and guidance for parents
- Pop in sessions for over 60's
- Event co-ordination



The vehicle was launched at the "Responding to the Recession" conference in April by Cllr Ian Carr, Leader of Test Valley Borough Council and Vice Chairman of Test Valley Partnership.

The mobile unit and the services provided through it by partners will contribute to tackling a significant number of the Joint Areas of Focus.