



# Test Valley Partnership News



December 2008



## Dear Partners

Welcome to this edition of the Test Valley Partnership News. As 2008 draws to a close we can reflect on what has been a busy year which has seen the further development of partnership working in Test Valley and real results being delivered in our communities.

During this year we have also seen major policy developments with the signing of the new Local Area Agreement for Hampshire, the development of the pre-submission Core Strategy for Test Valley which outlines planning policy for the next 20 years and the release of government guidance on Local Strategic Partnerships and Community Empowerment.

Following our successful Away Day in October the Partnership is now set to roll out its "Joint Areas of Focus" which will enable us to work across our action groups to tackle some of the key issues in Test Valley.

2009 promises to be an exciting year and can I take this opportunity to wish you all seasons greetings and a Happy new year!

**Janet**

Janet Blann, Chairman of Test Valley Partnership

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## Partnership Board Away Day

The Partnership Board held its Annual Away Day on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October at the Potters Heron Hotel in Romsey. Members of the Partnership Board and Co-ordinators of the Action groups came together to set out the focus for the year ahead.

The day was based around the emerging themes of recent government guidance on Local Strategic Partnerships, the Empowerment White Paper and Comprehensive Area Assessment proposals. The aim of the day was for Partners to set out the key issues the Partnership will work on to support the delivery of the Community Plan.

The Away Day was a really successful event thanks to the full participation of everyone who came along. Partners have identified their "Joint Areas of Focus" which set out the cross cutting issues that the Board and Action Groups will work together on during 2009. Communication, performance management and developing a co-ordinated approach to Community engagement were also highlighted as areas to be worked on during 2009.





## *The Test Valley Joint Areas of Focus*

The Joint Areas of Focus (JAFs) will be the new way in which the Test Valley Partnership Board and the 8 Action Groups set out the cross cutting issues that will be worked on over the coming year. The JAFs are about issues currently affecting Test Valley and are those that require a partnership approach in the short to medium term.

The Joint Areas of Focus will enable the Partnership to bring together local priorities alongside wider county ones from within the Local Area Agreement. They also reflect local planning policies set out within the Local Development Framework. Examples of the proposed JAFs include; Reducing Obesity, Anti Social Behaviour and Breaking down the barriers to adult and community learning opportunities in Test Valley.

The Test Valley Partnership Board will formally agree the JAFs at its Board meeting in January. Following this the Action Groups will be invited to work together to develop joint approaches on how they will work to tackle the JAFs.

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## *Core Strategy out for Consultation*

The Council has published its Pre Submission version of the Core Strategy. The document sets out the proposed policy direction and where development should take place for the next 20 years. The 6 week consultation finished on Friday 12th December. To advertise



the consultation letters were sent to all interested parties, a colour supplement was included within the Test Valley Newspaper delivered to all households in Test Valley. Test Valley Borough Council also hosted 13 public exhibitions across the Borough with approximately 700 members of the public attending. Presentations were also given to the various Test Valley Partnership Action groups. As of the 4th December Test Valley Borough Council had received 140 comments and is anticipating more to arrive. Following consultation the document will be submitted to the Secretary of State who will appoint an Inspector to scrutinise the document at an 'Examination in Public' which will take place in the Summer of 2009.

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## *Consultation - Hampshire's Draft Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12*

Hampshire County Council is now consulting on the new Children and Young People's Plan for 2009-2012. It represents a shared commitment to unlocking the potential of every child and young person and providing support that ensures success in their adult lives. The consultation runs until 5 January 2009, with two separate questionnaires - one for children and young people; and one for parents/carers, service providers, practitioners and partners.

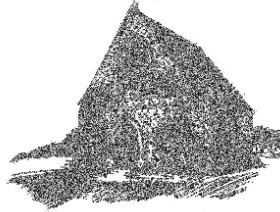
To download the draft document and relevant consultation documents, please visit:

<http://www.hants.gov.uk/cypp>



## Chapel Arts project

St Mary's Chapel (located in the grounds of Andover Cemetery) is to re-open as a centre for visual arts and crafts showcasing the finest of Andover's and Test Valley's talents. The project is being led by Test Valley Arts Foundation in partnership with Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. Capital funding (£125,000) has been obtained from various sources including the Borough and County Council, the Test Valley Arts Foundation itself and Arts Council England South East.



The disused Chapel will provide affordable studio space for three professional visual artists or craftspeople and be accessible to the public. Resident artists will maintain a vibrant programme of events which will allow them to develop their own practice alongside community workshops.

The aim is to complete the project by late summer of 2009.

## Gym Kids

Andover Extended Services have been working in partnership with Test Valley Borough Council and the Test Valley School Sports Partnership to increase physical activity levels amongst primary school age children through the 'Gym kids' initiative.

Gym kids is a range of exciting new fitness equipment for primary aged children specially designed to make fitness more fun.



One set of gym kids equipment is currently at Middle Wallop Primary who are co-ordinating the booking of the equipment to all other primary schools within the Test Valley cluster. All schools using the equipment are issued with good practice guidelines, an equipment maintenance checklist and a supplementary activity guide.

The other set is shortly to be used at Portway School within the Harrow Way cluster.

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## Mobile Unit

Following a major facelift, the mobile unit funded by the Community Safety Partnership in 2006 is being brought back into use courtesy of Extended Services (Romsey and Andover). The unit will enable rural communities to access services i.e. play activities including sports, support services i.e. housing, health, advice, and other services such as age concern visiting the rural community and offering support. Those interested in using the bus will need to contact Jan Lefley, Romsey Community School at [jan.lefley@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jan.lefley@hants.gov.uk)



## Support for the Creative Industry



In January, a unique programme of support for the creative industry in Test Valley will be offered by 'Cibas' (Creative Business Advisory Service). This consists of two one-to-one advice sessions with a specialist creative industries business advisor, a professional development training seminar and an informal, but informative professional networking event with special guest speakers. The scheme is open to professional practising artists as well as those about to embark on a career in self employment or who are planning to start up a creative business.

This scheme is supported by Hampshire Economic Partnership, Hampshire County Council, Test Valley Borough Council, The Lights Arts Centre and the University of Portsmouth.

Further information is available from [cibas@port.ac.uk](mailto:cibas@port.ac.uk) or see [www.port.ac.uk/cibas](http://www.port.ac.uk/cibas)

## Update on Test Valley's Children's Play Portfolio – funded by the Big Lottery Fund

**Community Play Coordinator** – following a hugely successful summer (where 28 open access play sessions for 302 young people were provided at various open spaces in the Borough), Kelly has recently left her post and a replacement will be sought early in the New Year. Amongst the activities that the children enjoyed in the fresh air included, making dens, playing with



tyres, playing rounders, unihoc, draughts, flying kites and painting. Some of the feedback received from children/ parents:-

“...nice to see so many children all having fun together – better than watching tv or going on the play station”

“...fantastic idea, kids are loving it, hope this becomes a regular holiday activity”

**Phoenix Park** – this facility has proved extremely popular and continues to be 'looked after' by the community – no reports of vandalism since being installed in April 2008.

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## Turnaround Project:

The Turnaround project, set up to reduce inequalities in the Alamein Ward continues to grow. The variety of community activities over the Summer period was impressive, well attended and included the following:



- Aboriginal Arts Session
- Teddy Bears Picnic
- Yama Yoga
- Jungle Craft
- Drumming Workshops
- Paradise Club (currently taking part in genealogy sessions in King Arthurs Hall)

**Beyond Horizons project** (activities in October for families at Tile Barn, Brockenhurst). The activities were well attended and positively received by participants. Families have expressed an interest in getting involved in future outdoor activities and would like to



participate in a 2-day residential programme for families.

**Inside Out** – a recent photography project was attended by 39 young people from Alamein Ward, who featured in a film about the project.

The successful recruitment of a Co-ordinator to work in the Askalot shop has really assisted with the expansion and variety of activities that can now be appropriately resourced.

The recent shortlisting of the Turnaround project in the National Housing Federation (NHF) Awards for Peaceful and Better Neighbourhoods, and Community Engagement is a reflection of the successful partnership working that has now become mainstream for this project.

If anyone has any queries, please don't hesitate to contact Debbie Pike on 01264 405582, or via e-mail: [Debbie.pike@testway.co.uk](mailto:Debbie.pike@testway.co.uk)

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### *Better Bags for Romsey*

Better Bags for Romsey has had a very good year and is going from strength to strength. The campaign aims to reduce the use of plastic bags in Romsey. Organic fairly-traded cotton bags from a small workshop in India, in an area that had been hard hit by the tsunami have been sourced. Funds for the project have been raised from several sources, both local and national, to buy bags to a specific Romsey design, and the project has been supported in managing those funds by the Environment Centre.

"Better bags for Romsey" was launched in June 2008, supported by the Mayor of Romsey with an event in Romsey's Town Hall. Since then a bag has been given to every child at Romsey's junior



schools, and to a number of other community groups and individuals. A website has been set up and the project features regularly in the local newspaper.

A plastic-bag-free day in Romsey at the end of February is being planned. The day will involve an active partnership with Romsey's retailers.

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### *Alcohol Project*

A survey in respect of alcohol and smoking policies and perceptions was carried out by Test Valley Community Services' in May/June 2008 amongst voluntary sector groups in Test Valley. Questionnaires were sent to 91 groups and a 43% response rate was achieved. Further health promotion information was sent to groups who requested this. The findings of this survey were reported to the meeting of the Test Valley Partnership Health and Well being Action Group in December 2008

- Population over 16 – 86,742
- Estimated 10,409 drinking over 6/8 units on at least one day in the last week
- Estimated 5,811 are physically or psychologically dependent on alcohol

March 2006-2007

- 1705 incidents of violence against the person : 801 estimated to be alcohol related
- 136 incidents of sexual offences of which 41 were estimated to be alcohol related.

Subsequently, a multi-agency Alcohol Action Steering Group has been established and is working on a programme of alcohol awareness events over the first 6 months of 2009 starting with some media information; design of leaflets to be sent out to



parents with warning letters issued by the police when teenagers have been discovered drinking alcohol illegally ; a theatre production for those aged 14/15 years at 4 Test Valley schools to be followed 2-3 weeks later by an event targeting parents. Plans for all of this are still evolving and are dependent on the dates of the theatre production. The Steering Group meets monthly at TVCS.'

## Halloween & Bonfire Message

This year the Test Valley Partnership used the Not in My Neighbourhood Week to launch the Halloween and Bonfire campaign. Anti Social Behaviour and tolerance were the key messages throughout the Not in My Neighbourhood Week with Radio interviews and community messages played daily;



local newspapers followed the story and published crime prevention advice, Officers from the Council and Police talking to school children, community groups and targeting 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 and to respond to calls promptly, this included visiting parents to inform them of their children's behaviour – the result being that children were called home early!

The above is a short highlight of the work carried out by the partnership which has helped, in our opinion to achieving a great result for Test Valley. The three main areas of concern were Criminal Damage, Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour and Arsons. The combined operation has delivered a **58.3%** reduction in criminal damage, a

**64.3%** reduction in Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour and a **74%** reduction in arson calls.

GOSE (Government Office South East) are pleased with these results and would like to use Test Valley as an example of Best Practice.

For more information please contact Garry Tallett, Community Safety Manager at [gtallett@testvalley.gov](mailto:gtallett@testvalley.gov)

## Dates for your diary

### Test Valley Partnership Board Meetings 2009

Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2009	9:30am – 12:30	Council Chamber, Romsey
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2009	9:30am – 12:30	Guildhall, Andover
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2009	9:30am - 12:30	Council Chamber, Romsey
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2009	9:30am – 12:30	Beech Hurst, Andover

**Partnership Management Group –**  
Friday 9 January 2009, 9.30am, Test Valley Borough Council, Duttons Road, Romsey

## Test Valley Partnership Manager

For information on the Test Valley Partnership please contact James on 01264 368130, [jmoody@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:jmoody@testvalley.gov.uk)

