

Borough Councillor Report

Cllr Maureen Flood and Cllr Susanne Hasselmann

September 2025

Food waste caddies begin delivery across Test Valley

Households across Test Valley will soon receive their food waste caddy packs as part of the borough's new food waste recycling service, which launches this autumn.

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC), with the help of a specialist distribution company, has begun the rollout of food waste caddies to homes throughout the area, which is expected to take up to seven weeks to complete.

Each standard household will receive a five-litre kitchen caddy, a 23-litre kerbside caddy, one roll of caddy liners, and an information leaflet explaining how the new food waste collection service works.



For households that share bins, deliveries will include a 140-litre grey-lidded food waste wheeled bin for the bin store, rather than a kerbside caddy.

Residents are being reminded to store their caddy liners in a dry place and keep the information leaflet safe for future reference.

The new food waste collection service will officially begin on Monday 13 October 2025, so the caddies should not be used until week commencing 6 October.

Residents will also soon receive postcards telling them what day their food waste will be collected.

The service aims to reduce the amount of food waste sent to landfill and increase recycling rates across the borough. Food waste will be collected weekly and taken to an anaerobic digestion facility, where it will be turned into renewable energy and nutrient-rich fertiliser.

To celebrate the rollout, TVBC has hidden 20 golden tickets inside randomly selected caddy packs. Lucky winners can choose from a range of exciting prizes, including a £50 gift voucher for The Lights, and a three-month premium membership for Andover Leisure Centre, Romsey Rapids, and Knightwood Leisure Centre.

Draft Local Plan 2042: Revised Regulation 18 - Public Consultation closes on 5th September

Both your Borough Councillors have been busy over the summer listening to residents about their concerns over the housing allocation which forms part of the Revised Regulation 18 Local Plan. Many of the comments relate to infrastructure, from water and roads to GP surgeries and schools. The preservation of our villages and rural life, as well as amenities and transport links were also mentioned.

It is important that you put your individual concerns into an email, a letter, or answer the online survey. The public consultation finishes at midday on 5th September 2025, so there isn't much time for you to act.

Please send your response via the online platform and response form (survey) following this link [Test Valley Borough Council](#) (you will need to register your name to use the system). Alternatively, you can send your comments via email to planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk,


The planning team will take some time to go through all the responses and upload them onto the public web page. The final iteration of the Local Plan (Regulation 19) is expected to be published in the spring of 2026 when there will be further opportunity to comment.

How to desensitise your dog to loud noises before fireworks season

You may think it's too early to be thinking about fireworks season, but if you have a four-legged friend who is scared of loud bangs and sudden noises now is the time to start desensitising them so they are ready for it in a couple of months' time.

TVBC's Animal Welfare Officers have shared some useful tips on how to help your dog feel safe and calm - including the Sounds Scary program from [Dogs Trust](#).

For more information visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/SoundTherapyForDogs.

 [Watch the video](#) to learn more about how you can start using it today to support your dog's wellbeing.

Protecting pets when their owners are hospitalised

Rod Mason, our Animal Welfare Officer, has been working closely with local social services to tackle a growing challenge: ensuring pets are cared for when their owners are suddenly hospitalised. Under the Care Act, this situation can create significant pressure on both health and social care teams, and we're seeing the impact more frequently.

To avoid difficulties, people can nominate care for their pets in case of emergencies. Here is a link to a short video to share from Rod on our You Tube channel:

<https://youtu.be/JKR2rJ2J7DA?si=jcn5fRoBI9MI3SGK>

[Click here for the emergency pet care form.](#)

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