

North Baddesley Borough Report 2016.

The last year has been dominated by housing development; both new application proposals and the adherence to planning conditions on permissions which have approval.

A major achievement was the defeat of a planning application for 300 homes at Great Covert, the woodland along Castle Lane, in October 2015, following strong objections by both Borough and Parish Councillors, both on environmental grounds and because it would constitute over-development of the local area. An application for 40 houses in Roundabout Copse, which is adjacent to the Chilworth Golf Range, was also defeated.

In January 2016, Test Valley Borough Council's Revised Local Plan, which specifies the location of housing, industrial, commercial and leisure development until 2029 was adopted, after approval by a government inspector. It included the proposal for 300 homes at Hoe Lane North Baddesley. Borough councillors Celia Dowden, Steve Cosier and Ann Tupper have met with the consultants for the developers, to view the outline proposals and discuss and input suggestions to try to gain the best development possible.

The plan gives some assurance that there will be no strategic development for the foreseeable future in the local gaps between North Baddesley and the neighbouring wards of Romsey, Valley Park and Chilworth.

The Borough Councillors have made substantial grants, to pay for instruments for Mountbatten School Music Academy. Grants have also been awarded to North Baddesley Citizens Advice Bureau to offer an outreach service every fortnight and the North Baddesley Friendship Circle. The Councillors take great pleasure in supporting projects which provide community benefit.

Work to improve the traffic flow at the Botley Road traffic lights has now been completed and further work to alleviate flooding in the area has also been carried out. The 300K cost, was secured from Hampshire County Council by Councillor Alan Dowden.

Test Valley Borough Council has raised the council tax by 4% for 2016/17, well above inflation, as a result of national government reducing the rate support grant.

Cllr Celia Dowden