North Baddesley Borough Councillors Report September 2026

Cllr Geoff Cooper and Cllr Alan Warnes

1 Test Valley Borough Councillors

At the Full Council Meeting on the 22nd July 2026 it was confirmed that Cllr Ford would stand down as a member of Test Valley Borough Council Southern Area Planning Committee.

2 Local Government Reorganisation

Cllr Geoff Cooper introduced a motion at the TVBC Council meeting on the 22nd July 2026 challenging Hampshire County Council's use of £500,000 of public money to pursue a judicial review of the government's decision on Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire. On Monday 7th September, the government announced it was pausing the current LGR process for several councils, including those in Hampshire.

Whilst the process is 'paused and under review' by the government, it is widely expected that the outcome will be the same. It is highly unlikely that the current proposed boundaries of the new Unitary authorities will change. However, given the timing of the pause, we are now expecting elections for Test Valley Borough Council to go ahead in May 2027 with shadow elections for the Unitary in May 2028. Meaning Hampshire County and Test Valley Borough Councils will cease to exist in Spring 2029. One year later then previously planned. The pause is likely to only add to the cost and confusion around LGR, without making a meaningful change to the outcome.

3 Draft Test Valley Borough Local Plan

It was proposed at the TVBC Council meeting on the 22nd July 2026 that a new Local Plan should be designed. This was due to several designated developments being recently withdrawn. These withdrawals, coupled with the increased Land Supply target introduced by the government requiring Test Valley to achieve 946 new houses per year, meant that the local plan could not be achieved. After much debate the option to develop a new local plan was accepted.

4 TVAPTC and TVBC Meetings and Annual Conference

A session was held on the 20th July covering work that has been undertaken with communities to support them in delivering local priorities and to consider how they could continue to work together in the remaining time of TVBC and beyond. This will be followed up with the annual Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils (TVAPTC) and Test Valley Borough Council conference which will take place on Saturday 19 September at King's Somborne Village Hall, with networking from 10am. All parish and town councillors and clerks are welcome to attend. The conference will feature three interactive workshop sessions:

Test, Learn and Grow – an update on the programme's work with rural and town parishes.
The new planning system – exploring changes linked to the Local Plan.
New planning delegations – an opportunity to consider new planning delegations coming into effect.

5 North Baddesley Village Hall Open Day

Cllr Alan Warnes was pleased to attend North Baddesley Village Hall open day on Saturday, 29th August, which was partly funded by the ward councillors. Although the weather was not at its best, it was great to see all the support the Village Hall had to make this a special day.

6 The Sculpture of Queen Elizabeth II

Cllrs Cooper and Warnes were pleased to represent North Baddesley at the unveiling of the new statue of Queen Elizabeth II at Romsey Abbey on the 4th September 2026. The artwork was commissioned by TVBC and the artist Amy Goodman who completed the War Horse at the Memorial Park produced an excellent piece of work representing our late Queen. The sculpture celebrates the late Queen's enduring connection to Romsey and the wider Test Valley, including her links to Broadlands and the Mountbatten family. Residents, schools and community groups also played a key role in shaping the artwork, contributing memories, ideas and artwork during its development. Viewing of the sculpture is highly recommended as it is truly an excellent and intricate piece of work.

7 Let's Save Water campaign – help spread the message

Although the weather has changed there is a new campaign called Lets Save Water, which is led by Ofwat and supported by 16 water companies. The campaign aims to help people make simple changes to reduce water use and raise awareness of the long-term challenge facing water resources. Evidence from the Environment Agency's National Framework for Water Resources highlights a projected daily shortfall of five billion litres of water if action is not taken.

Everyday changes to help you save water:
• Cut your shower by two minutes and you will save 28 litres a day
• Swap a running tap for a washing up bowl, to save 10 litres per minute
• Fixing a leaky loo saves up to 5 full baths of water, 400 litres a day
• Swap regular mode for eco-mode on your dishwasher and washing machine to save 10 litres per wash

8 Fly Tipping

Test Valley Borough Council received two reports from local residents about the fly-tip. A Southampton man who admitted fly-tipping a trailer tent and associated waste in a Nursling layby has been ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work and pay a fine of more than £1,100.

9 DEMFEST (Supporting Dementia)

Cllr Warnes attended DEMFEST on 13th September 2026 at Hilliers Arboretum, which was supported by ROMDAG, the local dementia action group. Visiting the festival was very informative as it demonstrated the wide range of support there is for dementia and people with associated issues. These ranged from where to get support and advice, dental health, security, help for carers, Healthy Communities Program (Romsey Rapids), disability access to sailing (Testwood Lakes Sailability), even the police and Fire Brigade were there to demonstrate their support. If you require further information, please see the ROMDAG website; https://www.romdag.co.uk

10 Councillor Community Grant Awards

The North Baddesley Councillors with support from Philip Kloppenborg the TVBC Community Engagement Officer for North Baddesley are very keen to hear from Charities or Groups with grant proposals that help support North Baddesley residents or improve the environment.