

Welcome to the March edition of my e-Focus in which I update local residents on news items, council meetings and planning applications in the Alamein ward.

As before if you no longer wish to receive these e-Focus newsletters please contact me on len.gates@andover.co.uk and I will remove your email address from the circulation list.

February's council meeting approved the council tax levels for the year 2010/2011. This includes a 2.5% increase in Test Valley's tax, a similar rise in the Andover levy and increases from Hampshire County Council, the police and fire services. Andover residents will also pay a precept for the new town council. Charges for a band D property are expected to be £1402.03 in Andover, £1391.92 in Enham and £1385.38 in Smannell. Full details will be sent to all households over the next month.

Also this month councillors considered and approved revised plans for the lower Guildhall. A new restaurant group (Zippers) wants to move in as soon as possible. I believe the original decision to let the building to a restaurant was wrong. But, given the delay in letting the building, the urgent need to refurbish it, and to prevent further loss of council tax payers money it is not in the public interest to oppose this decision.

Changes in local bus services are being investigated by the council's scrutiny committee. If anyone has any particular points they want raised please let me know. The committee plans to report back to full council in April.

I have asked again for urgent actions to resolve flooding on Smannell Road open space and, following complains about speeding and contractor traffic I have asked for an update on the installation of traffic calming on Icknield Way.

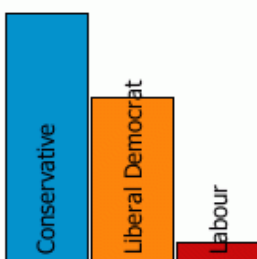
I am also liaising with police and community safety managers to improve policing on Roman Way and to that end joined officers on patrol in the area last Friday night.

Tenders are being sought to improve broad band provision to Smannell and Little London and it is hoped a contractor for the project will be appointed in early April.

Finally the campaign against fluoridation of Hampshire's water supply continues with an open letter to the Strategic Health Authority calling on them to reconsider their decision to add fluoride to Southampton's water. I was pleased to be a signatory to that letter.

Cllr Len Gates, Alamein ward, Test Valley Borough Council

Andover's votes in 2007



Labour can't win here

For all the latest news visit

<http://lengates.mycouncillor.org.uk/>

<http://www.nwhampshire.libdems.org.uk/>



PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning application has been submitted in the past month. If you wish to see more details or comment on them go to

<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=5600>

10/00326/FULLN	16/02/2010	2 Dove Close Andover Hampshire SP10 5PB	Erection of single storey rear extension
10/00336/FULLN	17/02/2010	74 Genoa Court Andover Hampshire SP10 5JD	Infill carport to provide secure garage

THIS MONTHS BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Test Valley council meetings this month are as follows. Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings of the council. To view the agenda of the meeting, go to

<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=201>

10.03.10	Licensing Committee	Council Chamber, Duttons Road, Romsey.	17:30
11.03.10	Northern Area Planning Committee	Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover	17:30
16.03.10	Planning Control Committee	Council Chamber, Duttons Road, Romsey.	17:30
17.03.10	Cabinet	Council Chamber, Duttons Road, Romsey.	17:30
18.03.10	Audit Committee	Council Chamber, Duttons Road, Romsey.	17:30
24.03.10	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Council Chamber, Duttons Road, Romsey.	17:30
31.03.10	General Purposes Committee	Council Chamber, Duttons Road, Romsey.	17:30
01.04.10	Northern Area Planning Committee	Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover	17:30

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL, OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Andover Councillors Forum	Mon 8 Mar 19:00	Guildhall, High Street, Andover
Enham Alamein Parish Council	Wed 10 Mar 19:15	Enham Tea Rooms, Enham Alamein
Alamein Community Association	Tue 16 Mar 18:15	King Arthur's Hall, King Arthur's Way, Andover
Smannell Parish Council	Wed 17 Mar 19:15	Smannell & Enham School, Smannell