

# Minutes of the Romsey Forum 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025

34 people present .

Chair : Cllr John Critchley. Notes : Michelle Evans

1. Apologies : Cllr M.Cooper, Cllr N Daas, M & R Robinson, N Beasley, M Bull, J Arden, D Robinson.
2. Minutes of meeting 19<sup>th</sup> June :  
Item 6 : As a correction to the minutes and for clarification, Patricia Roberts had asked that the phrase "The Citizens Assembly did not get the document: a Councillor briefed them verbally" be replaced by "The Citizens Assembly did not get the *full reports of the retail and parking studies*: a planner briefed them verbally."

With this exception, the minutes were agreed.

3. New Plans for Waste : Michael Pratt, Waste and Recycling Officer, TVBC

Mr Pratt gave a presentation on the new scheme to recycle food waste, which would be rolled out from 13<sup>th</sup> October this year. He brought with him examples of the new food caddies, which will be picked up by specialist waste trucks and taken to an anaerobic digester facility, where the contents will be sorted and broken down. (he later advised that food waste could be wrapped in plastic bags or newspaper, once the provided bags had been used up).

For further information, Mr Pratt suggested the following links :

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/food-waste?chapter=4>  
[Herriad AD facility https://youtu.be/RgPNXyoMH0o](https://youtu.be/RgPNXyoMH0o)

4. Station Master's House Update :

Gary Wilburn, Managing Director of ep architects

So far £1million had been raised for the work to the Romsey Railway Station Master's House, towards a target of £1.5m. Subject to the approvals process and fundraising being concluded, the Hampshire Community Rail Partnership planned to start work on site in late 2025 or early 2026, with approximately 12 months to complete the project.

It was planned for the current café on the platform to move across to the renovated building and the rooms in the upper storeys to be available for community use, Start-up businesses might also be encouraged to rent space, with IncuHive, Hursley offering its expertise on setting up co-working spaces.

More information about the project can be found on the Hampshire Community Rail Partnership website.

## 5. **South of Town Centre plans**

Cllr John Parker outlined a timeline for Crosfield Hall etc redevelopment proposals. Acting Chair, Bob Jones outlined Romsey & District Society's proposals for a new building on the bus station site. Greg Davies, Director of Smith Bradbeers, warned that Bradbeers might have to leave Romsey if plans went ahead to remove the parking adjacent to the Store.

There was considerable discussion and many differing opinions.

## 6. **Any Other Business**

### **Landscape Works at Former Magistrates Court :**

A contract had been awarded by Test Valley Borough Council to carry out landscape improvements around the Former Magistrates Court offices in the town centre. The work, including new railings and planting, was expected to last around 3 weeks. These improvements would reduce pedestrian impact beneath the trees, support tree health, and create a more attractive setting with new shrubs and bulbs

### **King John's House Museum opens new cafe in Romsey after fire**

The café had moved from the fire damaged premises at the rear of KJH into the former Tourist Information Centre in Church Street, opposite the Abbey.

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm. (Closed Sundays and Mondays).

**A bronze statue of a young Queen Elizabeth II in her Coronation Regalia is planned for Romsey**, designed by sculptor Amy Goodman, as part of the [Test Valley Borough Council's Platinum Jubilee](#) commemorations.

### **Changing Places toilet facilities in Romsey**

Plans are in place to add a facility for Romsey in the car park by the Former Magistrates Court.

**Date of Next Meeting** : Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025