



Oyez!

October 2005

Pick up your
FREE
Town Council
Newsletter

Well, don't just sit there - get down to that Town Hall and find out!

Just what do we get for our money these days, I'd like to know?



HOME
SWEET
HOME

The Town Council's draft budget for the next financial year (2006/7) was considered at the October meeting. Once a final budget has been agreed, Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) will be told how much Council Tax (**precept**) is required from Axbridge householders. SDC then collect the money on behalf of the Town Council. The draft *precept* is around £36,500—less than £4 per month if shared equally by Axbridge Council Tax payers.

First call on the town finances is the ongoing costs of administration and maintenance of our existing facilities:- the work of the Council itself, the Furlong and its play area, the hire of the Town Hall for meetings, supporting the management of the Jack Todd Changing Rooms, and managing the cemetery and allotments.

Other ATC initiatives must be funded, such as improved street lighting, new planting, communication with voters and the part funding of salary for a Police Community Support Officer's.

Your Council also makes grants to local organisations:- to the Town Trust for Town Hall maintenance and planters in the Square, towards the Christmas lights and trees, to the Royal British Legion, to the Somerset Showcase and the Mendip Society.

Not all ATC expenditure is covered by the precept. The Council also receives grants from County and District Councils and in the case of the Jack Todd Changing Rooms, from local charities and organisations.

Councillors aim to ensure that your Council Tax is not excessive, and is spent wisely and well to the benefit of Axbridge as a whole.

The final budget will be agreed at the next meeting on Monday 21st. November at 19.30.. Why not come and hear how **YOUR** money is being spent?

Pictures Can you loan any interesting illustrations of Old Axbridge to the Museum? Contact Barry Hamblin on **733939** or baz@bristol.gs if you are able to help.

Old Church Road new street lighting

The Town Council has formally requested that Somerset County Council (SCC) schedules work on the new lighting improvements in Old Church Road. This work will be funded by ATC in this financial year.

Any Axbridge resident who would like to see the Old Church Road lighting proposals and to comment upon them should contact Cllr. Mike Taylor on 732688.

Improvements are also planned over the next few years in Cheddar Road and High Street/West Street.

Priority for Houlgate Way?

The Council has adopted its own Local Transport Policy. A major aspect of the policy is to give priority to the bus route through the town. One suggestion, subject to professional advice from SCC Highways and final approval by full Council, is to change the vehicle priority at the junction of Houlgate Way and West Street. If this were approved, vehicles leaving the Square on High Street/West Street would "give way" to those entering town from the West and entering Houlgate Way. This may encourage more visitors to enter the town via Houlgate Way rather than via West Street/High Street and lead drivers to park in Meadow Street car park rather than in the Square.

The Council is also to seek advice from SCC Highways on possible safety improvements for pedestrians at the point where Meadow Street enters the Square, between the Chemist's and the Co-op shops.

Police Community Support Officer

Julie Lewis may be contacted on mobile 07717 7701699, or through Burnham Police on 01275 818181.

She may be contacted on this **amended e-mail address** julielewis@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk **NOT** as given in "Oyez" last month, which omitted the "pnn" part!

Please use this local service and make her aware of any traffic, parking or other non-emergency issues.

CRIS in the car park

All young people (13-19 years) are reminded that the CRIS youth project begins on Wednesday 2nd. November (then weekly for 20 weeks) in the Meadow Street car park between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.. Parents please encourage your children to go along and join in. This is an ideal opportunity for all the youth of Axbridge to make its voice heard.

Square parking spaces

SCC is to be asked to re-paint the white lines marking the highway and all the parking bays in the Square. Also it is proposed to re-align the bays on the south side— by moving them nearer the pathway. This re-siting is intended to allow larger vehicles (the bus!) easier movement through the Meadow Street corner of the Square. A designated "disabled" bay will also be created, near the Town Hall.

Axbridge Promotion Group ATC will operate a new Advisory Committee of councillors and co-opted members from local businesses and organisations. The aim is to inform the community about activities in the community and to promote Axbridge town to a wider audience as a place worth a visit.

Initially the group will consist of Cllrs. Mrs Jennifer Trotman (Twinning Association), Jeremy Gall (Town website), Paul Passey (“Oyez”) and the Mayor *ex-officio*.

If you feel you have something to offer this new group—expertise, ideas, time to get involved, please make contact with the Town Clerk.

All weather surface at Cheddar Initial discussions are being held about the possibility of an “all-weather” sports surface being built in Cheddar for use by all surrounding local communities. The question of funding has not yet been resolved.

SID says “too fast” The results from the Speed Indicator Device (SID) set up recently in Cheddar Road recorded 1 vehicle heading towards the Square at **more than 71 mph**. About 50 cars each day entered at between 41 and 50 mph. About 160 cars per day travelled at more than 38 mph.

This, and other statistical information will be passed to the police for their consideration, perhaps with a view to setting up police speed guns.

Youth Club premises for sale? Your Town Councillors were dismayed to hear a report from Cllr. Dennis Bratt that the Old Railway Station building, once used by SCC as an area youth club, may be sold. Money raised would not be used for any replacement facility in Axbridge. SCC would add the proceeds to a county “pot” for use in the youth service generally.

The Council resolved to investigate this revelation as a matter of urgency..

Illegal parking in West Street A small length of limited parking space in West Street is causing distress and problems to residents. There is permitted parking in the section overnight between 6 p.m. and 8a.m. and during the daytime on Sundays only. Parking at any other times is illegal. The police have been made aware of the persistent flouting of these restrictions and a number of fixed fine parking tickets have been issued.

At the October meeting, one local resident explained to councillors in detail how this on-street parking beside a very narrow footpath made it impossible for adults with pushchairs to pass between car and house wall, without damage being done. Turning off West Street to enter garages was also being made dangerous by the actions of a few inconsiderate motorists.

ATC has been asked to support a suggestion from Somerset CC Highways, that this section of restricted parking be removed totally. Councillors agreed to see the effect of more vigorous police enforcement (more tickets), before coming to a decision.

The great road sweeping mysteries

Councillors were intrigued to learn that the road-sweeping lorry, operated by Sedgemoor District Council,

sweeps the streets of Axbridge once every 8-10 weeks. It is understood that Cheddar is swept weekly. The Council found this apparently unequal treatment strange.

The cleaner who visits the Square daily and empties black-sack litter bins is said to clean other areas “as and when necessary”, but has no clear instructions, or map of those areas that he should look at.

ATC seeks clarification from SDC on both issues.

The Fair and Blackberry Carnival At the October meeting, a resident asked about police presence and the provision of stewards at the recent Axbridge Fair and Blackberry Carnival. The Council has no direct involvement in either event.

The fairground owners use the Square by long-standing right and by arrangement with the Town Trust. The Carnival Committee is entirely independent.

Council agreed to write to both groups expressing its concerns about behaviour/safety matters at these events..

Planning permissions and enforcement

SDC has given permission for the Axbridge Medical Centre to be extended and for 2 houses to be built on land at “Miri Lodge”, Chestnut Avenue.

The District Council is taking enforcement action against the owners of “The Old Angel” (the Square). This is because inappropriate replacement windows have been used in a listed building.

Furlong damage Young cycle/BMX riders have done damage to an area of the Furlong. The Council, as tenants, are content for cycling to continue at the **SOUTH** end of the field, away from the football pitches and play area. Parents are asked to monitor this.

New bus stops The Town Council has been asked by SCC to approve new bus stops and shelter (s) in the areas of Old Church Road and the Surgery in Houlgate Way. Once final sites have been agreed in detail the work will be funded by SCC in this financial year. Any new shelters provided by SCC will be maintained by Axbridge Town Council.

The existing stops in the Square will remain as they are - “request” stops, but with no shelter.

Have YOUR say about YOUR town!

You are invited to attend the next Axbridge Town Council Meeting on Monday 21st. November. You may speak for up to 3 minutes on any town-related matter, or agenda item. Your views are always welcome.

Who knows Axbridge better than its residents?

This newsletter and other local information can be found on the Town Council’s website

www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk

Any elector, who wants information, or who has any issue to put before the Council should contact:

Town Clerk, Mrs Vicky Brice.

Telephone number: 07884 264033