



# Oyez!

November 2005

This is your **FREE** Axbridge T. C. Newsletter

Just relax until after Christmas!



**Town Council sets the budget** Councillors voted at their meeting in November to set a *precept* (ask Sedgemoor District Council to collect on behalf of the Town Council) a sum of £37,500. This represents part of the Council's planned expenditure for the financial year, 2006/7. Other items will be funded from grants and receipts from property.

This increase of £10,000 on the figure for 2005/6. is due to unavoidable extra costs in running the Council's day-to-day business and also as a result of new planned expenditure.

Main expenditure will be: grant to the Town Hall - £3,640.00; Christmas trees/lights -£700.00; future street lighting improvements - £2,500.00; part funding for an Axbridge dedicated PCSO (subject to availability) - £2,750.00; Furlong work (grass cutting, play area repairs and maintenance, safety inspection) - £8,090.00; Town Hall hire for Council Meetings £1,000.00; Axbridge Promotion - £900.00; new Jubilee Road hedgerow - £450.00

It was also agreed to earmark funds for Clerk's training and to support ideas that might come forward from the youngsters working in the CRIS Project.

A sum of £2000.00 was included in anticipation of the Somerset Showcase being in Axbridge in 2006. This money would be repaid from a Sedgemoor District grant. Council also anticipated income from SDC as a result of funds contributed by local building developers. This money may only be spent on community play and youth projects.

It was anticipated that the "Jack Todd Changing Rooms" account would be wound up next year and a sum put aside for future maintenance of the building.

**The Council anticipates that the *precept* will be approximately 95p per week for an average "Band D" property in Axbridge.**

### Old Church Road new street lighting

The Town Council has instructed Somerset County Council (SCC) to proceed with this work.

### 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 **e-mail address julielewis@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk** Please use this local service and make her aware of any parking, or other non-emergency issues.

### CRIS

Attendance at the CRIS Project in Meadow Street car-park each Wednesday evening is increasing. The young people hope to make a presentation to Council about how they see Axbridge now and in the future. This is planned for the January meeting of the Council.

All youngsters between 13 and 19 are encouraged to see what CRIS has to offer and what they can offer Axbridge.

### Promotion for Axbridge!

The new Advisory Committee (APAC) made its first report to Council. The Committee saw as its first priority the need to better inform the community about the Town Council's powers and responsibilities. Also it was agreed that the voters of Axbridge should be made aware of the ways in which they may bring their concerns and questions to the Council and other local bodies - such as Sedgemoor District Council.

During 2006 APAC will make contact with Axbridge businesses and traders to consider the formation of a Chamber of Commerce, or some similar self-regulating, independent group. Councillor Barry Hamblin was co-opted to the Committee particularly to help in developing this aspect. If you feel you have something to offer this new venture - expertise, ideas, time to get involved, please make contact with the Town Clerk, or Cllr Hamblin.

Also APAC will look at setting up a "Town Diary", in which organisations can pre-warn each other of their proposed events and will produce a simple information leaflet about the work of the Council.

### Youth Club access

The Council was pleased to receive confirmation that **there is access** through the yard at the end of Station Road to the Youth Club building. Keys are held by Somerset Youth Service.

Council will now press SCC to explain why the Youth Club remains closed.

### Parking changes in West Street

Three members of the public addressed the Council on the issue of illegal on-street parking in West Street. After considering these submissions and discussing a detailed report from the Highways Advisory Committee, the full Council voted by majority to recommend to SCC that the one short length of permitted parking on the north side of West Street should be removed and the **single yellow lines be replaced by double yellow lines.**

**Residents are urged to comply with these regulations, but also to be tolerant of those drivers, who must stop briefly to make front door deliveries.**

## **Street cleaning around Axbridge**

Councillors were given a report of the street cleaning carried out by Sedgemoor District Council following a site meeting with Mr. J. Roberts the Cleansing Manager.

Mr Roberts said that one employee visits every day and empties bins in the Square and in Meadow Street car-park. He also "litter-picks" and "scavenges" in other areas that clearly need attention, but he does not follow a strict programme of work. He cleans the children's play area on the Furlong and empties bins there twice each week.

The "Scarab" street sweeping vehicle visits the town once every 4 weeks and cleans all streets where that is possible.

Councillors were urged to make SDC aware of any particular streets/areas that they felt were being missed and arrangements would be made to tackle them as soon as possible. **Each month a list will be compiled at Town Council meetings and sent to Mr. Roberts.**

**If you can identify neglected areas please make contact with the Clerk or any Town Councillor.**

**New bus stops and shelters** The Town Council agreed to new proposals by Somerset CC to create **2 new bus stops** with raised "easy access" kerbs together with **2 new bus shelters**.

One will be immediately opposite the existing stop near the Houlgate Way Medical Centre. The second will be in Old Church Road, north side, just to the west of the new Mendip Construction development.

Council is also urging Somerset County Council to consider a second stop in Old Church Road and also the re-siting of two stops from the Compton House area into the "top end" of Houlgate Way. It is felt that this change will make waiting for a bus a safer prospect.

**Footpaths grant** The Council has been awarded a grant of £922 by Somerset County Council to help fund a display board to show all Public Rights of Way in the parish. It is hoped to set this up somewhere in a prominent position in the Square.

The grant will also pay for guide walk leaflets to be distributed free. These will show a number of "circular walks" around the parish - starting and ending in the Square. The leaflet will be called "Circling the Square"

Before these promotions are ready the Council will try to ensure that the paths will be better way-marked and cleared of obstructions.

**Dog fouling** District Councillor, Liz Scott reported that Sedgemoor District Council had prosecuted three owners recently for allowing their dogs to foul on Axbridge footpaths.

Council welcomed this positive approach to the problem of inconsiderate dog owners.

## **Help for householders**

If you are **over 60** or **disabled** and you an owner or tenant/landlord of privately occupied property and you need **help or advice about home** improvement then the "SCHIP Home Improvement Agency" is available to

you. Contact 01278 444815.

For a property adaptation for a disabled person FIRST contact Social services at "CARE direct" 0800 44 000.

Alternatively contact the Town Clerk.

**Parish Plan** The Parish Plan Steering Group gave an update on their progress in producing their recommendations. They had analysed in total 240 returned questionnaires, together with 45 responses from the Youth Survey. A draft document would be presented to the Council at the January meeting. A further Public Consultation was planned for early February and the completed Report was expected in early Summer 2006.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE NOTICES**

### **FATHER CHRISTMAS**

The annual visit by Father Christmas to Axbridge Square will be on Saturday 14th December.

### **CHRISTMAS TREES**

Christmas trees and lights will be distributed to the participating properties on 3rd. December.

### **AXBRIDGE CHEMIST NEW HOURS**

As from 1st January 2006 the Axbridge Chemist's will be open as follows:

**Monday — Friday 9am to 6pm.**

**Closed Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays**

If this will cause you particular problems you are invited to call the Proprietor on 01934 733230 to try to alleviate your difficulty.

### **A Quality Parish Council!**

Axbridge Town Council voted to work towards the status of "A Quality Parish Council" - a recognition of its efficiency and service to the community.

**Your attendance** at meetings could improve that level of service.

You may speak for up to 3 minutes on any town-related matter, or agenda item. Parishioners' views are always welcome. **Who knows Axbridge better than its residents?**

**Date of next meeting Monday 16th January 2006.**

**THERE IS NO DECEMBER MEETING OF THE COUNCIL - BUT THE TOWN CLERK IS STILL AT WORK!!!**

**A Happy Christmas to all our readers!**

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

**[www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk](http://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**