



Oyez!

April 2006

The Town Council Update
free to your door

“Axbridge Flyer” delivery service The Town Council is able to offer a new monthly service to all community non-profit making organisation in Axbridge. If **your** group has information (flyer) to be circulated, we will deliver it with “Oyez”.

We hope users will feel able to make a *reasonable donation* for each “mail-shot”. This will help defray “Oyez” printing costs. Secretaries of Axbridge groups will be contacted shortly with more details.

We need **still more volunteers** to distribute just 20 or 30 copies/month each. **Will you help in your area?** Please contact the Editor Cllr. Paul Passey 733373 or paul@westmead31me17.freerve.co.uk.

Parish Plan - the next stage The Parish Plan Steering Group has produced a draft Action Plan; a set of ideas arising from last year’s residents’ questionnaire and from subsequent public meetings.

Councillors thanked the Steering Group for its hard work and agreed to integrate the Action Plan with the Council’s current priorities, and to set up new groups to investigate new ideas. Cllrs Taylor, Bratt, Gall and Passey will work on this process of integration.

The Steering Group members will help with the development of the Action Plan and will circulate a Final Report before disbanding as a group in June.

Mayor’s Banquet *There will be no Mayor’s Banquet this year*, due to a series of unforeseen problems with timing and caterers.

Farmers’ Market theft Two of the white “A” boards used to advertise the monthly Farmers’ market have been stolen. If anyone has information about this please contact the Town Clerk or the police.

Somerset Showcase Sedgemoor District Council **WILL** make its regular grant to the Somerset Showcase. The date is **Saturday September 2nd.**

Can you get involved? We are looking for **MORE AXBRIDGE TALENT** to be a part of this extravaganza. Can you perform? Dress up? Sing? Dance? Offer any good ideas? Make your offers to Cllr. Mrs Jennifer Trotman (e-mail info@somersetshowcase.info or phone 733306)

Note the Showcase has its own web-site.

CRIS Project Ideas from the CRIS Youth Project were presented at a public meeting in the Town Hall on Wednesday April 12th.

The youngsters’ made their own suggestions for town improvements, which will become part of the Parish Plan process.

DID HE SAY
“AXBRIDGE FLYER”
WELL I’M MORE
OF A FLOATER
MYSELF.



Then just float down to the Town Hall on 24th. April for the Annual Assembly

Residents concerns Two members of the public took advantage of the opportunity offered at each meeting to address the Council.

Items raised included the continuing difficulties for bus drivers passing through the Square and the inconsiderate parking that hinders free passage. The delay in marking out new parking bays in the Square would be raised again with Somerset County Council.

Ex-Mayor’s badges The Council is investigating the cost of producing lapel badges to be bought by, and worn by, former Mayors of Axbridge in recognition of their former service. Subject to cost, in future these may be presented to each retiring mayor in recognition of his/her civic involvement.

Houlgate Twinning The next planned trip to Houlgate is on June 23rd. The cost will be around £85 - extra for ferry cabins. Please contact Cllr. Trotman ASAP (committee@axbridgetwinning.org.uk or 733306) for more information or to make booking. Everyone is welcome - *Allez-vite!*

Axbridge Chamber of Commerce The Council will set up a formal link with the Chamber of Commerce to ensure that work done by both to promote the town is complementary and that ideas are not duplicated. Cllr. Barry Hamblin will be the contact.

The Chamber’s Secretary is Carole Hamblin and she may be contacted by e-mail at: rhema@onetel.net

News from the Museum The opening of the Museum took place on April 1st.. The Mayor thanked the Museum Trust and the volunteers who make the Museum such a vibrant part of the town.

Minutes of Council Meetings. Because our Town Clerk lives in Cheddar, it is not easy for all residents to access Town Council minutes. Richard Helps has kindly agreed to keep a folder of *approved* Council Minutes in the Post Office.

Residents may read them, on request, in the Post Office, but may not remove them. Minutes will inevitably be *one month in arrears* as each set must be approved by full Council.

Axbridge promotional posters An annual Axbridge poster is to be commissioned to promote the town in libraries, Tourist Information Offices and other Somerset public places. The poster might also include the dates of regular Axbridge events - Somerset Showcase, The Blackberry Carnival, Axbridge Fun Day etc..

Cricket club nets Cllr. Mrs Ham reported that in order to promote cricket here in Axbridge the Cricket Club would be trying to create temporary nets for use on the Furlong this summer.

Town Diary As a service to the community the Town Council offers to act as "diary-keeper" for the town's public activities. The idea is to avoid clashes of event dates, and everyone chasing after the same audience.

Please inform the "Oyez" Editor of any event you are planning - however far in advance. He may be able to tell you if **your date** clashes with another.

The Diary will also appear on the Town Council official web-site - *which has been re-vamped and is now more user friendly than ever!*

Planning application - "The Crown"

The application received last month for a 2 storey dwelling house on land at the rear of "The Crown Inn" has been withdrawn.

Changing Rooms The Council agreed to buy new fire extinguishers and equipment after a recent Fire Service inspection.

Scaffolding at 9 High Street The Council is to ask about the scaffolding outside 9 High Street.; part of the conversion at "Old Butcher's Yard". It will create more of a hazard during the summer months unless removed soon.

Axbridge School Governor vacancy. Dr. Phil Wookey, the Town Council's nominated School Governor stands down in September. So if you are interested in the post, please contact the Town Clerk. You should be neither a parent of a child at the school, nor a member of Staff there.

Low-flying aircraft Cllr. Hamblin was concerned and had investigated the increased number of aircraft flights over the area. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) rules say that settlements should not be used as Visual Reporting Points (VRP), which enable pilots to report their position to air traffic controllers, yet Cheddar Reservoir had been designated a VRP by the CAA. Cheddar and Compton Bishop Councils had similar concerns. The Deputy Mayor felt that the CAA response to his inquiries was unacceptable and so he would continue to press the Authority for answers.

Water at the allotments Bristol Water had quoted a price of £878 to install a water supply at the allotments. This would be in conjunction with the National Trust supply being trenched through the area. Council felt that this sum was not good value for money, considering the nominal sums paid in rent by the allotment owners, many of whom make their own water gathering arrangements.

The Blackberry Carnival committee had asked Council to consider combining the Somerset Showcase with the annual Blackberry Carnival. It was suggested that this might alleviate some of the problems of finding suitable stewards for the events. However, Council felt unable to support such a merger, in part because the traditional visiting fair was, to a degree, reliant on the extra attendance promoted by the Blackberry Carnival. The fair and the Showcase would be incompatible in the limited space of the Square.

The Carnival Committee AGM is on May 18th at 8pm in The Lamb. All residents may attend.

Axbridge Town Council's Annual Assembly Monday 24th. April 7.30 p.m. - Town Hall

All voters are invited to attend - an opportunity to hear how your Town Council has carried out the past year's business on your behalf.

Ask questions! Make suggestions! Moan!
Get it off your chest! But whatever you do please don't just sit there!

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**