



# Oyez!

July 2006



**The Bristol bus** Every Tuesday an **Axe Vale bus runs to and from Bristol**. The pick-ups are at Houlgate Way, the Square (09.10) and Jubilee Road. It arrives at Broadmead at 10.15 and leaves again for Axbridge at 13.55. With your Bus Pass this is a **FREE** service - for other adults no more than **£4 return**. Everyone may use it, or everyone may lose it.

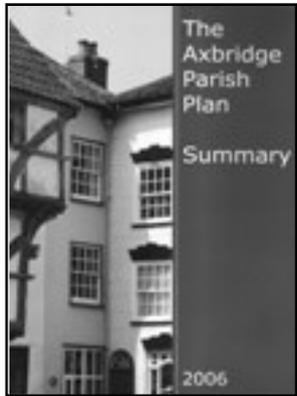
**Chamber of Commerce** Twenty-four local businesses are now members of the Axbridge Chamber of Commerce. If you wish to join contact: Carole Hamblin at [rhema@onetel.net](mailto:rhema@onetel.net), or 733939

**Possible changes to local parking** Cllr. Liz Scott (Sedgemoor District Council) reported the possible transfer of on-street parking enforcement from the police to the District Council - traffic wardens may then be employed.

**Police report** Several fixed penalty parking fines had been issued in Axbridge in the last month.

In 2007, PCSO Julie Lewis expects to be attached full time to the Axbridge "beat" as more Community Support Officers will be deployed in the area.

**Parish Plan Summary** With this copy of "Oyez" you will have had a copy of the Parish Plan Summary. The Steering Group has produced this based upon the responses to the questionnaire delivered to all Axbridge homes.



Copies of the full Parish Plan document will be available later - in print and on the Town Council's own website.

**Parish Plan next steps** The Town Council voted to adopt, in principle, almost all of the recommendations in the Parish Plan and tasks will be allocated both to committees of the Council and to individuals. It is clear that many of the concerns identified in the Plan have already been tackled, or are being investigated currently. Some issues need further information and clarification from the Parish Plan organisers, before action can be taken..

**Polite parking tickets** To make drivers aware of the parking arrangements in the Square, the Council agreed to investigate the possibility of illegally parked cars being "ticketed" with polite reminders of the parking rules in the Square.

**Youth shelter funding** Cllr. Kate Browne gave details of applications made to obtain funding for the Youth Shelter to be sited on the Furlong.

Local youngsters had raised over £400 by a sponsored walk. At the August Farmers' Market they will be car-washing in the Meadow Street car-park.

**New school & Community Centre** The Council deferred any discussion about a possible new school and Community Centre until after the School Governors' next meeting in September.

**A new Town Council in 2007**  
Elections are due in May 2007. All existing councillors, who wish to serve another 4 years, will have to stand for election. However, it is unlikely that all present councillors will seek re-election.  
Will you consider being a candidate? Why not find out how you can help your community? Any present councillor will be happy to tell you what is involved. This is where democracy begins.

**White lines in the Square** The new layout of parking bays should have been marked out in the Square by the time you read this. The main idea behind the south side re-arrangement is to allow the buses a free passage through the Square. This will only work if parking is confined to the marked bays and does not become random.

**Civic Service being considered.** In February 2007 Axbridge will have had the office of Mayor and the equivalent of a Town Council for 450 years. The Town Council is to consider a Civic Service in the Parish Church - to coincide with a regular Axbridge First School Friday morning service.

**Council Accounts** Council approved information to be submitted for the Annual Audit. This includes a breakdown of expenditure at 31st March 2005 and at 31st March 2006, together with an explanation where these amounts differed by more than 15%.

All local electors are entitled to see the accounts and may arrange this by contacting the Town Clerk.

**Free walk guide** The Axbridge walk-guide produced by the Town Council ("Circling the Square") is available from the Post Office counter.

**PLEASE ASK FOR A COPY - IT'S FREE.**

**Somerset Showcase** Plans are well in hand and generous sponsorship has been forthcoming from the Axbridge Chamber of Commerce and local businesses.

**Chestnut Avenue parking space.** Some Chestnut Avenue residents had written to oppose the possible provision of parking space at the west end of the avenue. One resident spoke in support, in the "Public Participation" part of the meeting.

Since it was not clear, who may own the space after Sedgemoor's housing stock is transferred to a Housing Association, further investigations will take place. Before anything is decided the residents will be asked their views once more.

**Signs on the Furlong** It was agreed to get estimates for a number of new official signs on the Furlong to set out the rules of use by the public.

**BMX on the Furlong** Insurance cover has been obtained to allow a BMX track to be constructed on the Furlong. This will be at the southern edge and on rough ground away from the pitches. Ford Brothers, the police and the Youth Service will combine with Axbridge youngsters themselves to construct the track. Riders will be allowed to use the track from dawn to dusk only.

**Lengthsman Scheme** Some parish councils in Somerset engage a self-employed person to undertake simple tidying and improving tasks around their areas. Councillors were told that if these tasks fell within the usual remit of the District Council, then a claim may be made for an Amenity Grant from Sedgemoor. This would go some way towards meeting the costs. The main advantage of this scheme was that jobs would be done quickly and in the order decided by the Town Council. The Highways Committee would make a detailed recommendation at the August meeting.

**"You are here"** The notice board in the Moorland Street car-park is shortly to be renovated and a simple "You are here" map inserted for the benefit of visitors to the town.

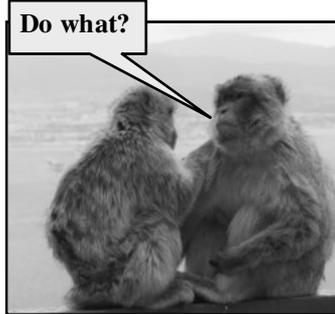
**Miri Lodge Planning** Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) has deferred a decision on the latest planning application for the site at Miri Lodge, Chestnut Avenue.

**Planning support** The Town Council has supported an application for a change of use of ground floor rooms from residential to café/restaurant and delicatessen at the Bank House, The Square. Also there was support for the erection of one display case for advertising Public Rights of Way at The Co-op Stores, The Square.

Both applications were in line with Council policies to encourage local business and tourism.

**No "Oyez"?** If you know of anyone who is not having a monthly copy of "Oyez" delivered to their door, please let the Editor know.

**Obstruction of footways** The Council had received correspondence about the placing of advertising material outside premises in the town. A member of the public addressed the Council on this subject. Councillors agreed that there was a need for all local traders to be dealt with in an even-handed manner, when it was a matter of encroaching onto public highways and footways. Councillors felt this needed further investigation and passed the matter to the Highways Committee for its next agenda.



**Meet a Town Councillor at the next Farmers' Market. Ask questions. Give your opinion. Get involved in local issues. Consider standing for election in May 2007. Don't just sit there**

**Please can you help?** Volunteers are needed to help deliver "Oyez" in the following areas: Marron Close, Station Road, Cheddar Road, Starrs Close. This would involve delivering monthly copies of "Oyez" and community advertising flyers.

Please contact the Editor, **Paul Passey - 733373** or email on: [paul@westmead31me17.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:paul@westmead31me17.freeseve.co.uk)

**Mayor's Charity Appeal** "This year I am raising cash for the Babe Appeal (Childrens' Hospice South West) and sending materials to schools in Zimbabwe. I have been given a quantity of school equipment (80 tables, 120 chairs, some bookcases). I need a lorry to transport this from Bridgewater to Cheddar for temporary storage. Soon I shall need a large lorry to move everything out to Zimbabwe, first by sea to South Africa and then overland to Zimbabwe. The equipment will be distributed by the Harare Rotary Club. I should like to donate the lorry to another charity in Zimbabwe. If you can help, or know someone who might, please call me."

**Baz Hamblin, on 01934 733939 or 07979 994126.**

**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**