



# Oyez!

August 2006

Your **FREE**  
Town Council  
newsletter

## COUNTRY CODE

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

**Parish Plan Summary** Did you get a copy of the Parish Plan Summary document with last month's "Oyez"? If not, further copies may be picked up at the Post Office.

**Parish Plan Final Document** This more detailed Report from the Parish Plan Steering Group is with the printers and will be available shortly as a booklet and on-line at the Town Council's website.

**Parking in West Street** Councillors accepted the recommendations by Somerset Highways in its recently completed "Highway Safety Assessment" of West Street. The major recommendation is that *"Subject to consultation with local disability groups, the Highway Safety team consider that it would be beneficial to retain the length of existing restricted parking fronting the properties of 14 & 16 West Street between the hours of 18:00 & 08:00"*.

Put simply, the recommendation by Somerset County Council is for **no change to the West Street parking arrangements** at present.

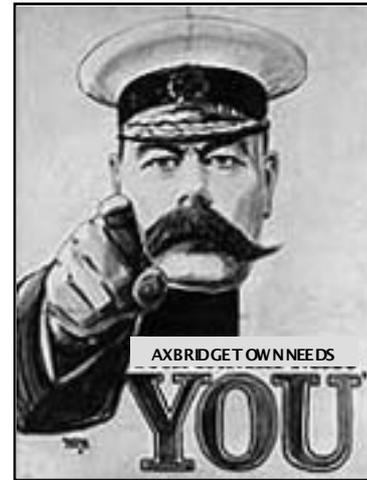
The document contained other recommendations such as information gathering by Somerset Highways. This might be useful in future discussions with the authority about traffic and pedestrian provisions in the town.

**Footway obstructions in Axbridge** The Council instructed the Highways Advisory Committee to carry out wide ranging investigations to discover the nature and degree of footway obstructions throughout the town. In particular it is to determine whether these are placed on **public** footways, for which the Highways Authority is responsible, or on private land over which it has no jurisdiction. The Town Trust has some responsibility for the use of the Square and so the Council will seek to clarify exactly what permissions have been granted by the Trust.

Once all facts are known, recommendations for future action will be presented to full Council.

**Harvest Festival Service** Members of the Town Council have been invited to attend the annual Harvest Festival Service at the Axbridge Methodist Church on 10th. September at 6.30 p.m..

**Slinky bus** The North Sedgemoor Slinky Bus service can take you to places untouched by the regular bus routes. Currently the bus comes to Axbridge about 3 times a week and runs mainly to W-S-M and Clark's village. The service is *free* to those with Travel Passes. To book or to get more information **phone 01749 331234**.



**A Quality Parish Council** The Town Council fulfils most of the requirements to be "A Quality Parish Council" and so to be better equipped to serve Axbridge residents. Once that status is granted, further responsibilities may be devolved from Sedgemoor, or Somerset Councils to your local

representatives.

**BUT we shall not become a QPC unless at the next elections (May 2007) enough candidates stand to ensure that there is a poll.**

**ASK ANY COUNCILLOR OR CLERK WHAT BEING A COUNCILLOR INVOLVES, OR VISIT**

**[www.municipalyearbook.co.uk](http://www.municipalyearbook.co.uk)**

**1,000 year leases** The corporation of Axbridge once owned a considerable number of properties in the medieval part of town. The Town Trust's Archivist, John Page, is trying to identify as many as possible. A clue to former corporation property would be if the house was, or still is, subject to a 1,000 year lease. If your house was, or is, subject to such a lease please could you contact John on **01278 760986** or **myrtle@joph.fsnet.co.uk**

**More ball room** The Saxons Football Club and the Axbridge Cricket Club have written a joint letter to the Town Council asking for help in finding suitable land upon which to play. Both clubs have plans to expand but the Furlong is incapable of supporting all the sporting activities of the town.

**Axbridge Museum** The Council was pleased to hear that the Museum Trust had organised two successful History Workshops for children during August. The first was on the subject of Axbridge Markets and Fairs and the second concentrated on the Axbridge Workhouse.

**Mobile Library** Somerset County Council is reviewing its Mobile Library Service and the Council has been asked to complete a questionnaire. If you would like to give your views please contact the Town Clerk for a copy.

**Scheduled stops in Axbridge are as follows:**

*Wednesdays (3 weekly)*

Houlgate Way 2.25 - 2.50 & the Square 2.55 – 4.05

*Fridays (3 weekly)*

Axbridge Court Nursing Home 2.30 - 3.00

Further information - 0845 3459177

**New Chamber member** The Council's Representative on the Chamber of Commerce Committee reported that Bristol Airport has been accepted as a member of the Chamber. It was felt that this link up could be of benefit to both airport and town.

The Chamber is also proposing to encourage larger Farmers' Markets each quarter - beginning *possibly* with the Christmas Market.

**Town Council Archivist.** The Mayor, Cllr. Baz Hamblin reported that a volunteer had agreed to be the Council's archivist and be responsible for collecting together such documents as Fun Day and Carnival programmes and copies of various local publications. These will reflect present-day life in Axbridge and be of use to future local historians.

**£1667 to spend** A sum of £1667 has been made available to the Town Council by Somerset County Council from the Community Budget. This money may be spent on any project to the benefit of the community in general. Proposals will be considered next month. Do you have any ideas?

**Axbridge Town Twinners** The Friends of Houlgate Society held a Barbeque for 42 of its members on 19th. August.

**A planning application** for ten 2 bedroom dwellings on land to the south of Old Manor House, High Street was recommended for refusal by the full Council. The site is on the north side of the Meadow Street car-park.

The Council was concerned over the proposed access to a dwelling on land to the west of The Court. Improved visibility splays were requested.

**Meeting venues** The Council's Personnel Committee will recommend suitable future meeting places for the Council's several Advisory Committees. Meetings of *advisory* committees, most of which are informal in nature, have traditionally taken place in private homes, in the open air (the Furlong) and in local hostelrys. Whilst such meetings are not open to the electorate, some councillors felt it was important that voters see the Council going about its business.

**Dogs droppings in droves** This is a plea! Will **all** residents, who exercise and evacuate their dogs in any part of Axbridge, please ensure that the contents of your pets are bagged and disposed of properly - especially when walking along the droves and other public places and rights of way?

**BMX highs and lows** Councillors expressed their thanks to Ford Brothers, Youth Leader Lyndia Hind, PCSO Julie Lewis and John Chard for helping to establish the new BMX track on the Furlong. The youngsters who also helped in the early stages of construction were also congratulated on their efforts.

Sadly it seems that other young people then mis-used the area, littering the Furlong playing area with large stones. Councillors felt that the proper use of BMX track might take a while to establish.

**Holiday chalets at Cross** The Town Council has informed Sedgemoor District Council that it had no observations to make about a proposal to build 10 timber holiday chalets on land east of Manor Farm, Cross. This development was seen as unobtrusive and of possible benefit to local traders.

**Lengthsman wanted** The Council is seeking to quantify the cost of engaging a self-employed person to take on the role of Axbridge lengthsman after April 2007. A lengthsman would work for a few hours each week to tidy places not included in the Sedgemoor District Council schedules, undertake minor repairs to public property, cut grass, trim along footpaths etc.

*If you, or anyone you know, is interested in doing this work, please contact the Town Clerk.*

**A Local Oral History of Axbridge** is being planned by the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society. This project will include recording the memories of long-time Axbridge residents. The Mayor, Cllr. Baz Hamblin has agreed to be Patron of this project, to be directed by Mr Harry Mottram. Look out for details.

**DON'T FORGET**  
**"SOMERSET SHOWCASE"**  
**SATURDAY 2ND. SEPTEMBER - ALL DAY**  
**THE SQUARE AND ELSEWHERE**  
**SEE THE PROGRAMME AT**  
**<http://www.somersetshowcase.info>**

**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**