



Oyez!

Axbridge Town
Council news

September 2006

The Parish Plan Steering Group plans to hold a meeting in October to present its final report and its recommendations for action. Residents will be invited to volunteer to work on those aspects of the Plan, for which the Council has no responsibility or resources. Many of the ideas from the Plan are already incorporated in the Town Council's ongoing policies. The Council welcomed the possibility of harnessing outside help and expertise.

Recent disturbances in and around the Square were the main subject of the police report to Council and also during "Public Participation" the councillors were urged to take action.

The police spokesman made it clear that reliable evidence and witnesses would be needed to bring successful prosecutions. Investigations were still being carried out with regard to the Bank Holiday incidents.

It was stated that only a small minority of Axbridge youth had been involved; other culprits had been from out-of-town. Every opportunity should be taken to celebrate the many positive activities of our community. The adverse Press publicity had also damaged the town's image. It was clear that these latest outbursts of anti-social behaviour were very distressing, to those directly affected, but similar events had happened in the past and had then died away.

The Council will consider better ways of lighting the Square, especially the church steps, and the pathway from there to the Youth Club building on the by-pass. It will also ask Sedgemoor District Council to consider installing a mobile CCTV camera in the Square on occasions which might result in disturbance.

A Youth Liaison Group of councillors would meet to consider how best to involve youngsters of the town in positive activities; to ensure the most effective use of the Cheddar Valley Youth Club, at the former railway station; and to create and maintain dialogue with our young residents, who might be in danger of feeling alienated from the community as a whole.

The variety of obstructions on footways in the town had been discussed with Liam Gill of Somerset Highways. He made it clear that he would consider carefully each and every problem reported to him and he would then decide if further action were needed. He would respond to complaints from the public or from Council.

The Town Council re-iterated its intention to act consistently and pass on **all** complaints, whether from the public, or from individual councillors.

The application to build holiday chalets at Manor Farm Cross had been refused by Sedgemoor District Council.

Funding sources for the youth shelter had now been identified by Cllr. Mrs. Browne. These included Somerset and Avon Police and Biffa. Decisions about grants would not be made before the end of the year.

The Twinning Association is planning a trip to Houlgate for the weekend of 24th November. Details are on the Association's website www.axbridge-twinning.org.uk

Comments about poorly maintained listed buildings had been aired at the Council's recent Planning Committee meeting. The Old Manor House in the High Street and the Co-Op shop in the Square were both seen as being in need of attention.

The CRIS Youth Project youngsters would tidy up the BMX area in the Furlong very shortly. Councillors applauded this positive involvement of youngsters in the community.

The Council's APAC (promotional) committee would investigate the cost of providing **a new notice board at Moorland Street car-park** if the cost of repairing the old one could not be reduced.

Will you stand for Town Councillor in May 2007?

"Think not what your Council can do for you, but rather what you can do for your town" - JFK almost.

The Council re-stated its policy on "The Axbridge Flyer" service.

PLEASE NOTE that in future no flyers for commercial organisations will be distributed with "Oyez".

The Somerset Showcase organiser, Cllr. Mrs. Trotman, was congratulated on a successful and enjoyable event and for coping so well with the uncertain weather on the day.

The organising committee had met to consider how to make improvements in 2007 - provisional date - September 1st.

The Council's Leisure and Recreation Committee was asked to respond to detailed written requests from **Axbridge Saxons Football and Axbridge Cricket Clubs** for help in obtaining more open space for pitches and a wicket.

It was agreed that in principle the Council would support moves to increase recreational space in Axbridge, but that any Council controlled open space should also be made available for a wider range of sporting activity.

Councillors adopted an amended **Public Transport Policy** document. This included the long-term aims of re-siting some of the bus-stops in Cheddar Road and at the Houlgate Way-West Street junction and increasing the provision of "easy-access" raised-kerb bus stops..

Sedgemoor Council will shortly be considering its **car-park charges in Axbridge**. The Council would press for the town to be considered as a special case because of the increasing congestion. Specifically, *the number of parking places provided in the car parks should be kept to the maximum; Moorland Street car park should continue to be used as a short stay, visitors' and shoppers' car park during the daytime, and parking for the first hour should be free; Meadow Street car park should continue to be used as a long-term car park, and charging hours should be between 10:00am and 5:00pm; the permit scheme should be more widely publicised and made cheaper to Axbridge users.*

Come along to a Council meeting - third Monday of the month - and see how it works!

After advice from Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) the Town Council decided to reconsider the wording of its proposed "**polite parking reminder notices**". These small reminder notices were intended to draw motorists' attention to the fact that parking in the Square is limited in time and that only the marked bays may be used. SALC's advice was that the notices should not give the impression that the Town Council had any legal right to enforce parking restrictions.

An inspection by ROSPA of the Furlong play equipment had highlighted one or two issues of repair and maintenance. These would be carried out as advised.

The Axbridge Oral History Project, of which The Mayor is Patron, will hold its first meeting in the Council Chamber on 17th. October at 7.30 p.m. The Project is being managed by Mr Harry Mottram, under the auspices of the Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society (see the accompanying flyer for more details).

Have you visited our **prize-winning Town Council website yet?** The Council's website, managed by Cllr. Jeremy Gall, has been judged by the Community Council for Somerset to be **the best community website in Sedgemoor**. It was seen as being easy to navigate, relevant, up-to-date and interesting. See for yourself at:

www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk



No excuses now! Your Town Council needs you. Get more information about becoming a councillor in May 2007 from the Town Clerk.

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**