



OYEZ!

Axbridge Council's
monthly newsletter
- delivered to your
door by volunteers.

January 2007

The Council did not meet in December, so some items in this newsletter may seem old news - but our aim is to keep you informed of **all** Council-related business.



May we wish all residents a Happy New Year and begin by thanking **Axbridge Sports and Social Club** for its hard work in preparing the town for the 2006 festivities - Christmas trees on houses, Santa in the Square and the presents for our young ones. The Club will be holding its AGM in February - so look out for the date and consider joining this key group, which also runs "**Axbridge Fun Day**" (**7th. July 2007**) and makes grants to local causes.

Our appreciation too to **the Lamb** for the fabulous New Year's Eve fireworks.

Before Christmas, councillors attended the re-opening of the **Axbridge Youth Club**, meeting both youngsters and youth workers. The club is "open access" on Wednesdays and on Thursdays runs adventure courses. Details on www.somersetyouth.co.uk

The Council's **Youth Partnership** advisory committee has met 3 times - with the Senior Youth Co-ordinator for Sedgemoor and to plan a programme to support official agencies to promote the well-being of our younger residents. The Partnership is proposing:

1. to set up an easily accessible directory of local organisations which provide youth activities.
2. to organise an exhibition/display to advertise youth services/activities in the district
3. to promote the establishment of a "drop-in" centre for Axbridge youth, somewhere in town.

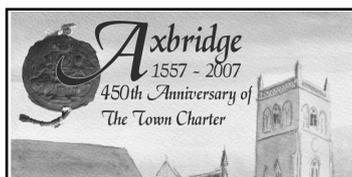
The Axbridge Town Council's own website www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk now has a "**Youth Matters**" section, which will give youngsters direct access via e-mail either to question councillors, to pass information or to make suggestions for improving youth facilities in town.

Also between meetings, Councillor Mrs. Pauline Ham represented Axbridge in a local radio quiz "**Clash of Counties**", and by extolling the virtues of our town, overcame Curry Rivel and is through to the next round. Our congratulations to our newest Axbridge radio star.

During the last 2 months Council has also moved ahead with its proposal to erect **stone town entrance markers** at the east and west end of Axbridge. Stone will be donated by Callow Quarry, carving and erection costs will be met by donation (Yeo Valley Dairies £800; Axbridge Parochial Charities £250). Somerset Highways has approved the proposed sites in principle.

Work is also in hand to erect smaller stone boundary markers - ready for "**Beating the Bounds**" later in the year.

Councillors met our District Member (Cllr. Mrs. Scott) and our County Member (Cllr. Mrs. Hill) to discuss the proposal to replace District Councils and the County Council by one single **Unitary Authority**, which would co-ordinate and deliver all services. Debate continues!



At the January meeting councillors approved a draft of the "**Axbridge 2007**" promotional poster - based upon the theme of the 450th Anniversary of the Charter given to the town by Queen Mary in 1557. These posters are becoming collectors' items!

Although Sedgemoor District Council has approved an application to build **ten 2-bed dwellings on land south of Old Manor House**, High Street (north of Meadow Street car-park), there is still confusion over amended plans that would be aimed at retaining the medieval boundary walls on site.

STOP PRESS: A recent accident at the end of the by-pass slip-road at Townsend, prompted Council to call for yet another meeting with Somerset Highways Officers to try to persuade them to do something to slow or to stop vehicles at the junction, before heading west towards Cross.

Council voted to allow **Axbridge Cricket Club** to erect 2 cricket nets on the south-west corner of the Furlong; to be funded by grants, a small donation from the Community Budget Fund, which would **not** be from Axbridge rates. There is no specific amount in the Council's 2007/8 budget for this project. The nets would be available to the whole community, unless pre-booked by the Club for net-practice. The club and the footballers are talking about the idea of creating a **cricket "square"** on the Furlong.

Council approved the design of **two benches** to be sited at the junction of High/West Street (opposite Horn's Lane) and in the lay-by (view point) on the by-pass.

A barrier will be erected between the car-park and the grass area on **the Furlong**. A removable section will allow approved vehicles onto the playing area. Two new **"springy toys"** will be bought from the Community Fund as replacements in the play area. **The Changing Rooms** had been left in a very poor state recently. The Leisure and Recreation Committee will talk to the hirers about this. A **plaque** marking the help given by Somerset Aggregates Levy Board in funding the building will soon be on display.

Cllr. Jim Lukins has agreed to become **Parish Path Liaison Officer** and report to Somerset CC any obstructions or damage to Public Rights of Way in the parish. If you have any PROW concerns you may contact Jim on 732293 or the Town Clerk.

The police reported **no burglaries** and **"no major problems of disorder"** during December and early January. Around 40 speeding motorists had been stopped in the Cheddar - Jubilee Road area. Most were cautioned; 12 were given **speeding tickets**.

Bristol Water has plans for **major works at Cheddar Reservoir** starting January/February 2007 and lasting for 18 months. This includes burying the existing blue plastic pipe and will present a variety of hazards. Bristol Water's contractor will be in the Town Hall on 3rd. February, during Farmers' Market to give more information.

Council had no objections to an application for a **Premises Licence** for the Bank House, the Square, Axbridge. Ms. Annabel Hackney and Mr. Geoff Dunlop will sell liquor at specified times. Sedgemoor District Council has already granted permission for change of use.

Councillors also agreed to support Compton Bishop Parish Council in its efforts to improve the situation at the **A38 crossroads at Cross**. Somerset Highways and the police have suggested - *All traffic joining the A38 from Old Coach Rd. at Cross, would turn left. Traffic heading for Axbridge would turn right at Shute Shelve onto the bypass. There would be NO access to Cross Lane from Old Coach Road. Old Coach Road would be made "No Entry" from the A38 and from Cross Lane at the Cross junction. Southbound traffic on A38 or from the Axbridge direction would continue on towards Weare then turn right into Old Coach Road to reach Cross.*

On May 3rd. Axbridge electors should be looking for 13 people

- People with **ideas** -
- People willing to **learn** -
- People who ask **questions** -
- People with **common sense** -
- People willing to **work hard** -
- People who can make **decisions** -
- People who can **work with others** -
- People who have **minds of their own** -
- People who want to **make a difference** -
- People who recognise **value for money** -
- People proud to **serve their community** -
- People who will **stand up to be counted** -
- People who are **concerned about Axbridge** -



To be sure of an election we need MORE THAN 13 Town Council candidates, to serve for 4 years.

You don't need ALL of these skills, some of our present councillors are standing again! If you would like an informal chat about being a councillor, here is a contact list of present Council Members:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Baz Hamblin 733939 | Mike Taylor 732688 |
| Jeremy Gall 733118 | Jim Lukins 732293 |
| Paul Passey 733373 | Edith Channon 733016 |
| Priscilla Chard 732834 | Pauline Ham 732062 |
| Kate Browne 733208 | Dennis Bratt 732352 |
| Tony Wilson 734622 | Andrew Bates 733698 |
| Jennifer Trotman 733333 | |

Issues for the Town Council? Come to Council Meetings (3rd. Monday each month 19.30 at Town Hall) **or** contact Mrs. Vicky Brice, the Town Clerk on 07884 264033 or email vbrice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk