



OYEZ!

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

February 2007

The February meeting was attended by 3 members of the public and the local **police**, who reported just two incidents during the last month; both attempted **thefts** of older motor cars - one successful.

The Chairman of the **Axbridge Action Group**, Peter Harding, gave an update of the group's activities. These included seeking funds for an independent Traffic Management Survey for the town, organising parking reminders to be issued to motorists and re-introducing the traffic speed gun - **Speedwatch** (co-ordinator Jane Anderson 733689).

Councillors have concerns about the closure of the informal route from Meadow Street car-park, through the **Nursing Home** to High Street/West Street. The owners will be asked for a meeting to discuss this.

A contractor has been found to erect stone **town entrance markers** at the east and west end of Axbridge and for the benches at High Street and the by-pass view point. A licence must be granted by Somerset Highways for the works.

There is a proposal to **re-surface Meadow Street car-park**. Since building work is likely at the rear of the Manor House, Council is to seek assurances that the car-park work is not undone by contractors' vehicles.

The revised plans approved by Sedgemoor District Council for **ten 2-bed dwellings on land south of Old Manor House**, had not been presented to Council for comment. The Clerk will write in protest at the way in which this application had been handled by Sedgemoor Planning Dept..

Councillors and officers from Somerset Council will consider several safety options for the end of the **slip-road at Townsend**. More evidence is required about the dangers experienced at this junction. **Please report ALL incidents** to the Clerk for recording. See also the Notice Board on the Town Council website www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk.



Museum re-opens 31st. March



The Friends of Houlgate Society (Town Twinning) **AGM** will take place on 22nd March at 7.30pm, in the Council

Chamber at the Town Hall. The Society is keen for new members to join and to help shape its future development and its links with Europe. All ages and interests will be welcomed.

The new **Sedgemoor Area Panel**, set up by Somerset CC has met. This forum aims to bring together all Local Authority Councillors and representatives from the parish councils to plan strategically for the area. Each County Councillor brings to the group a budget of £15,000 per year - £180,000 for Sedgemoor - to be spent on priorities agreed by the Panel. These are to be - reducing teenage pregnancies, increasing adult exercise, helping the young unemployed.

Axbridge **Saxons Football Club** has agreed to take on responsibility for the cleaning of the "Jack Todd Changing Rooms" - for a reduction in its hiring fee.

The **works at Cheddar Reservoir** will still allow for a walking route around the foot of the reservoir using Portmeade and Stubbington Drovers. The top of the western embankment will be closed for some time.

The **Axbridge Pageant** costumes need a new home and Council would be glad to hear of offers of storage space - please contact the Town Clerk. It was suggested that a meeting might be called shortly to form a **Pageant Committee** to prepare for the 2010 event.

VISIT THE TOWN COUNCIL STAND AT FARMERS' MARKET THIS SATURDAY MARCH 3RD.

The Council's Youth Partnership Committee is planning a presentation on Saturday May 5th. of all youth related activities in the district - a **"Youth Open Event"**. Organisers of youth activities will be invited to display material, or to be present in person to show what is on offer for youngsters - from table-tennis and cricket, to cycling and rifle-shooting.

A basic list of such local groups is to be found on the Town Council website at **www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk**. A paper copy will also be available (free) in the Post Office.

Subject to minor changes the **Axbridge 2007 poster** was approved. These will be on sale shortly at the Post Office and the Museum. It lists all major Axbridge public events for the coming year.

The Council agreed to meet the expenses of Axbridge Sports and Social Community Association in providing **Christmas Trees** and lights in December. This was just over £877.

A new bank account was agreed to hold the **Changing Rooms Maintenance Fund**. A sum of £5,000, remaining from funding grants will be deposited immediately. The fund will build annually by accrued interest and surplus from letting fees.

It was suggested that the youngsters, who had originally asked for a **youth shelter** on the Furlong, may now have an alternative suggestion - to site it at the Youth Club. They will be invited to make their current thoughts known at the March meeting.

Councillor Jim Lukins has agreed to be the manager of the Town Council's **lengthsman**, who will be employed under contract. He/she will undertake handyman type tasks around town, including tidying and clearing those areas untouched by either Sedgemoor or Somerset Councils.

Council agreed to accept Sedgemoor Council's estimate of around £160 to complete the **hedgerow planting** along the north side of Jubilee Road and to replace plants in the same hedgerow that died last summer.

The trees and shrubs outside the **Cemetery** had been cleared and this revealed the poor state of the boundary fence, which the Council will have repaired.

An updated tenancy agreement for **allotment holders** was approved, with a procedure for permitting trailers/caravans on the plots, for use as storage sheds.

The **Blackberry Carnival Committee** had written to Council asking for views about the carnival's value as an event in the town and whether the aim should be to create a surplus to be donated to causes within the community. This will be discussed more fully at the March Council meeting.

Somerset Youth Service may be able to assist in the funding of **improved lighting** from the Church steps to the Youth Club. A scheme is already being designed by County Officers for approval by the Council.

The Council is to investigate the costs of producing further copies of the Axbridge walk-guide **"Circling the Square"**, which was available (free) last year through the Museum and Post Office; 2000+ copies distributed.

Somerset County Council has rejected a suggestion of a **pedestrian refuge on the by-pass** at the Hillside turning. Council is to ask residents to keep a log of all "dangerous incidents" at that turning to present in future to County officers, as evidence of the need.

The police would support a **youth drop-in centre** in the town; an idea which is still in the early stages of investigation.



**Nominations Papers for
Council Election must be in
by April 4th.**



To find out more about your present Council's work over the last 4 years, its plans for the future, what being a councillor involves, how you could become a councillor, to ask questions about how it all works and find out how to get a Nomination Paper for yourself.....COME TO FARMERS' MARKET ON SATURDAY 3RD. MARCH AND FIND THE TOWN COUNCIL STAND

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