



# OYEZ!

The latest  
information from  
your Town Council  
SEPTEMBER 2007

**Error!** The **accurate** phone number for Cllr. "Baz" Hamblin is **733939** not as shown in last month's issue. Editor's apologies!  
Cllr. Matthews' number is 07708312087.

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The **Axbridge Farmers' Market** takes place in the Square every first Saturday of the month. Stallholders provide local produce - meat, cheese, bread, fruit, plants - all of the highest quality. **Use it - or lose it!**

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The Axbridge Action Group reported that it is once again operating the "**speed gun**" in town and asks for more volunteers to ensure more regular and frequent use.

The Group has asked to meet Town Council representatives to discuss the best use of a grant of £1000 made to the Group for "youth activities"

The Group has also received a grant of £1000, which it hopes to use in funding a **Traffic Management Survey**.

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Somerset County Council is undertaking a Safety Audit of the planned new footpath outside the **Old Butchers Yard** development.

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Officers from Sedgemoor District Council plan to visit the **Harvest Rise** development in Moorland Street to consider complaints.

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A joint meeting between the Council and Town Trust will discuss, amongst other matters, the **fire precautions** and evacuation procedures at the Town Hall.

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Councillors were told that the recent **Axbridge Harvest Home**, organised by the Chamber of Commerce had been a success and that this would probably result in a larger event being organised in 2008 - perhaps in a marquee on the Furlong.

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Council will invite further discussion about a possible "**Community Allotment**" at its October meeting.

The Chamber of Commerce will host the next **Somerset Market Towns' Forum** in October. Members will tour the town before adjourning to Compton House for formal business.

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The **Police** presence at Somerset Showcase had been much appreciated and the Clerk would write to thank them.

The regular "**Beat Surgeries**" had got underway at the Town Hall. These would be held on alternative Wednesday mornings in the Town Hall - next one - 26th. September then 10th. October.

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The Axbridge-Houlgate Twinning Association had been forced to **cancel** its proposed **trip** to northern France in November due to insufficient numbers of would-be "*voyageurs*".

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The Council voted to undertake an **Axbridge Design Statement**. This would set out the town's views about further developments in the town - leisure space, public facilities and housing growth. Such a document, once agreed, would have some influence on Sedgemoor District Council's planning decisions.

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A petition with 200 signatures was presented to the Council, asking that the **church clock's striking mechanism** should not be turned off at night. Other correspondence, expressing the same view had been received. It was agreed to pass this information on to the Parochial Church Council and to proceed with the installation of new equipment at the church - **without the silencing mechanism**.

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Members of Axbridge Action Group asked that the Council reconsider its approach to the decision by Almondsbury Care to close the **pathway through the Nursing Home**. Council had previously accepted the company's reasons for locking the access gates. A meeting between the Group and Council's Highways Advisory Group is planned.

Members agreed that the Administration and Finance Advisory Committee could investigate the feasibility of purchasing premises in town as a **permanent Council base**. The Council lacked storage and working space for the Clerk. An accessible meeting place would be needed. It was also agreed that such a study and any subsequent report should be regarded as confidential until such time as a decision by Council is required.

Members voted to delay its response to a Town Trust request for a **grant towards Town Hall maintenance** and management until after the joint meeting between Trust and Council

New and stronger **grills** will be ordered and fitted to the Changing Rooms in the Furlong

The Council will receive a grant of £6500 from Sedgemoor Area Working Panel (Somerset County Council) towards the **lighting scheme** on the path to the Youth Club - to create safe access in winter months - and to pay for improvement work on the handrails at Church Steps.

A further meeting will take place between Axbridge, Compton Bishop and Weare Councils to discuss the safety issues at the **crossroads at Cross**. Somerset County Council is holding a meeting for Councils along the whole length of the A38 to express their views on improving the road.

Councillors were told that there was still no obvious place in town to site a **broadband computer** for public use. A further meeting with the promoters was planned.

The Councils Highways Advisory Committee will produce a response to Sedgemoor District Council's proposed **car-parking charges** for 2008. This will be on the October agenda.

The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights have a fund that provides bursaries for youngsters (14+) to take part in a **tall ships voyage**, or Outward Bound course. Anyone wanting more information should contact the Clerk, or Cllr. Mrs. Browne.

Following the success of the "**Axbridge in Bloom**" photographic competition at Showcase, the Council is to investigate how it may promote greater "florification" of the town next year - perhaps by making discount purchases of hanging baskets available to residents.

The Mayor confirmed that once the Clerk had obtained the necessary qualifications, there were no major obstacles to the Council's application for **Quality Parish Council** status. This accolade might lead to more powers being devolved from Sedgemoor to Axbridge Council.

Council approved the placing of two notices on the **Furlong Play Area** fence that would ban ball playing in that area.

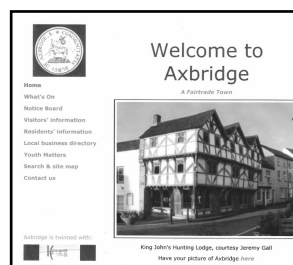
There will be investigations into the possibility of instituting a set of **bye-laws** for the regulation of the Furlong.

In recent weeks there had been further problems with excessive noise from youngsters. Broken bottles had littered the play area, which had to be closed briefly.

The Furlong Manager, Darren Hogarth began work on September 1st. He will work for 16 hours each month.

**Has anyone seen our cones?** The Farmers' Market organisers are missing 2 traffic cones and a white A-board advertising the market. Information please to the Clerk.

**The Somerset Showcase** was deemed a great success by all participants - visitors stall-holders and local civic dignitaries. Next year's event will be on September 6th.. The Council is grateful all the help and support it received from sponsors and volunteers.



Visit our "**highly commended**" (Sedgemoor District) Town Council website for all the latest information - Council and Community news and events.

[www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk](http://www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk)

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](mailto:vbrice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk)