



OYEZ!



Funding for the **youth shelter** on the Furlong is now complete. A "Biffa" Award of £1305 will allow the serious work to begin.

A **Village Design Statement (VDS)** is underway. The Council's Planning Group has met Sedgemoor Council to discuss how this may best be tackled. A public consultation meeting will be called in the new year.

The proposal to build "**Affordable Housing**" in Axbridge is still being considered. Members of the Planning Group will talk to other local Parish Councils, which have undertaken such projects, so as to understand better any pitfalls.

Council agreed to promote the "**Axbridge in Bloom**" competition run by Cllr. Bratt as part of the 2007 Showcase. This trial event had been a great success and early publicity of categories would hopefully encourage many more residents to take part next year.

The town's **Fair Trade** certificates will, with the Town Trust's permission, be displayed in the Council Chamber and in the entrance lobby to the Town Hall.

Councillors agreed to consider some small expenditure on improving the display material for the Council's regular **Community Stall** at Farmers' Market.

A **Farmers' Market Liaison Group** now exists consisting of Cllrs. Scott and Passey, the market's Day Manager Barry Cross and Louise Hall from Somerset Farmers' Markets. Would-be stall holders should contact any one of these.

The Mayor will make the draw for **Christmas hampers** (12 noon) at the December market (Dec. 1st.). Carol singers will perform - refreshments will be available.

A **£1000 grant** will be made to the Town Trust to meet costs incurred in renovating civic portraits.

To celebrate the 450th. Anniversary of a Royal Charter, granted by Queen Mary Tudor, which, amongst other things, granted the town permission to appoint a "Mayor" instead of a "Portreeve", two stones have been erected. The one at Townsend was dedicated by Rev. Tim Hawkings on 14th. November.

Representatives of the Town Council and the main local sponsors attended - Yeo Valley Dairies (funding donation), Bardon Aggregates (gift of stone) and the "Jack Todd Bequest" (funding donation).

The local police expressed their **condolences** to the Bastin Family and thanked residents for their support and dignity during the recent difficult period. Councillors recorded thanks and admiration for the way in which the emergency services had responded to the tragedy.

The Council's nominated School Governor reported continued **success** at the First School, but drew attention to the considerable amount of litter that is to be found often in the school's area of the Furlong.

The **Community Allotment** project has attracted much interest and so Cllr. Lukins would enquire further into the possibility of land being available for rent. The general management of the project, including any lease, should be a matter for participants not for the Council.

The Council voted unanimously **not to donate** towards the Somerset County Council Chairman's fund to support Olympic hopefuls in the county. It was felt any such donations should be made to more local initiatives, or more local athletes.

The Council will ask Sedgemoor District Council to raise a **precept** of £46,000 for the next financial year. This represents **no increase** on last year and may be calculated as an average figure of **£1 per week** from each household to fund Town Council work.

There will be a public meeting on **5th. December** at 19.30 in the Town Hall to discuss the next **Axbridge Pageant**, due in 2010. The Mayor will chair this inaugural meeting.

Everyone interested in being involved in some way is urged to attend. The Pageant depends upon public support.

There will be no December meeting of the Council, as usual, so NO "OYEZ"

The grant towards the lighting scheme for the **Church Steps** area is dependent on an estimate for work from Somerset County Council (SCC). This estimate has been expected for a matter of months.

SCC is to be asked if it has plans for **reducing light-pollution from street lights**, especially from midnight to dawn.

More safety-bark for the aerial runway in the Children's Play Area will be ordered. Funds previously set aside for other Furlong work will be used for new **safety surfacing** under the new "Rock 'n Cross" equipment.

Council will ask SCC to monitor the **crack in a wall** in Horn's Lane/Back Lane and to look again at depressions in the by-pass carriageway - on the bridge approach.

Representatives of the Council, Bristol Water and SCC will hopefully meet to agree a proposed **diversion and closure of footpaths** around the new reservoir pumping station. Although this is in Cheddar parish, it affects Axbridge residents more directly.

Work on replacing a **kissing gate** on the Compton Lane/Prowse's Lane footpath is to go ahead shortly.

The closing date for applicants for the post of "**Lengthsman**" was 26th. November. An appointment can then be expected.

Cllr. Bratt brought forward a first stage **Emergency Planning** paper. Councillors and others in the town will be asked to adopt specific roles in the event of major emergencies. Further work on this will be presented at the January meeting.

Now that the entrance markers are in place the Council intends to work on the erection of 4 parish **boundary stones** to be ready for the "Beating of the Bounds" at Rogation-tide.

Discussions continue between the Council and Town Trust about the availability of the Town Hall for Council meetings. In the meantime **Council will meet at the First School.**

The **Church clock's new mechanism** is satisfactorily in place. Investigations are taking place into the best means of bringing the Town Hall clock back into service.

The joint parishes **A38 Group** had discussed data collected by Compton Bishop Council about turning traffic at the Cross Lane junction, for SCC to consider.

HELP ESSENTIAL

IF THE MONTHLY DELIVERY OF "OYEZ" IS VALUED BY THE COMMUNITY AND YOU WISH IT TO CONTINUE, THEN THE EDITOR/DISTRIBUTOR MUST HAVE HELP.

I NEED SOMEONE TO HELP WITH THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM - COUNTING OUT COPIES, BUNDLING AND DELIVERING TO OTHER VOLUNTEERS.

THIS NEEDS SETTING UP BEFORE THE JANUARY ISSUE. - OR IT MAY NOT ARRIVE!

CONTACT: CLLR. PAUL PASSEY - 733373

Issues for the Town Council?

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

Why not be a Museum Custodian? Welcome visitors?

Volunteer to Maggie Stanley: 732797