



OYEZ!

Be in the know!
Read your free
Town Council
newsletter

January 2008

"SAVE OUR CAR PARK"



Sedgemoor District Council is considering selling **Meadow Street car park**. The Town Council and many local organisations and residents are completely **opposed** to the sale of the Town's car park—parking is a major issue in the Town, the car park is needed and encourages local business and tourism. It is a **fundamental** part of our Town. The Mayor has already addressed a full District Council meeting and the Town Council is writing to individual members and seeking support from David Heathcoat-Amory MP. The Action Group is presenting a **petition** which is available for signature in the Town. The Town Council held a **special meeting** on 30th January — a lot of residents came along and spoke against any sale of the car park. As a result, the Town Council will seek a professional valuation of the land and try to negotiate directly with the District Council to discuss the Town Council leasing or purchasing the car park to safeguard its future as a car park for Axbridge. The District Council is inviting expressions of interest in the car park, with tenders due back by 5th March. The District Council's Executive will meet on 12th March, where it is likely a decision will be made. **If you wish to save your car park—attend this meeting! Have your say**—write to the Leader of Sedgemoor District Council—Councillor Duncan McGinty, Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 3AR. Local residents and local organisations — **put pen to paper SHOW THEM YOU CARE.**

The **A38** joint parishes meeting is sending a document to Somerset County Council setting out local concerns and observations on the A38 between Shute Shelve and Lower Weare. These are **not proposals** for alterations but information to help the professionals in improving safety along this road.

The Council wish to thank **Orchard Stonemasons** for their excellent work in carving the lamb and flag logo and lettering on the **Town Markers**. The painting of the lettering is to be discussed. The siting of four **boundary stones** is being progressed.

A scheme to improve the **church steps handrails** and **lighting in Back Lane** is underway and every effort is being made to ensure the footpath is provided outside of the new development in Meadow Street.

Axbridge Action Group has highlighted their 5 key priorities including how to spend a grant of **£1,000** to benefit the **young people** of the Town and gave a copy of their car park petition to the Town Council.

The Town Council met with the **Town Trust** and hopes to provide **new notice boards** for the Town. The Town Council has confirmed that it will provide an annual grant of **£3,640** to the Town Trust over the next two years, towards the running costs of the Town Hall. This commitment will help both organisations to budget.

Axbridge Play Area is be further improved as the Council agreed to top up the **bark** under the aerial runway (part funded by Sedgemoor District Council), provide a **new bench** and agreed the final bit of funding to replace the see-saw with the "Rock 'n' Cross. This exciting piece of equipment will be installed shortly.

Why not be a Museum Custodian? Welcome visitors?

Volunteer to Maggie Stanley: 732797

A meeting is to be held to discuss improvements to the **126 bus route and bus stops**—included in Somerset County Council's programme of works 2008/09.

Councillors have discussed the proposed changes to the route of the **footpaths** around the new water treatment plant at the reservoir with Bristol Water and have been **successful** in their efforts to ensure the paths will run in line with the new fence.

The **Community Allotment** may become a reality with negotiations taking place with a land owner. Watch this space!

Work is taking place to create a **pedestrian access** into the far end of the **cemetery** thanks to agreement by the Cheddar Valley Railway Walk Society, who own the land. The Town Council is to remain responsible for maintenance of this access.

The **Showcase Committee** has a new Chairman—**Councillor Andy Matthews**— who will focus on organising a fantastic Showcase on **Saturday 6th September 2008**.

Warning to **cat owners**— it is understood that this area has a relatively high number of cases of **feline leukaemia** - get your cats vaccinated!

A **Village Design Statement** is being progressed to set out the Town's position on planning related matters. The Planning Committee will consider how to take this forward, with **public involvement**, to create a statement to benefit the Town.

The Mayor was authorised to sign the **Sedgemoor Charter** which aims to improve the working relationship between the District and local councils and improve on consultation and **communication** on local issues.

Grants are available to encourage landowners and community groups to carry out landscape restoration works—i.e. hedge planting, pond restoration, dry stone walling. For more information, contact the Clerk.

A **form of identification** for councillors is to be considered by committee to help the public identify councillors i.e. when carrying out site visits.

The **Town Maintenance Contract** was awarded by the Council and will provide for general maintenance, strimming, litter picking, repairs and will, generally, keep Axbridge tidy.

The Council agreed to re-elect Mrs Priscilla Chard and Mr Jim Lukins as **Trustees** of the **Parochial Charities** for a further four year term and would like to thank them for their support.

Sedgemoor District Council are doing a **Cleansweep** of Axbridge in March. If you know of any particular areas needing attention, please tell the Clerk.



Father Christmas in The Square — thank you to the Sports and Social Committee, and Father Christmas, for such an enjoyable evening. The Square looked magical and a fun time was had by all! The Town Council made a one-off donation of **£1,141,97** to meet the cost of the trees and lights. Plea—if you have a tree in the Square, High Street or St Mary's Street next year — please switch on the lights!



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