



# OYEZ!

**YOUR FREE  
COUNCIL  
NEWSLETTER  
FOR  
MARCH 2008**



## **MEADOW STREET CAR PARK**

The Council's Highways Advisory Committee has had informal discussions with officers from Sedgemoor District Council to find out if a bid by the Town Council to buy the Meadow Street car-park **as a car-park** would be seriously considered. The District Council has a need for cash and so would be likely to consider a reasonable offer for what it sees as an under-performing asset.

The Town Council has taken professional advice on the legal and financial implications of owning the car-park. The management and maintenance could remain, in the first instance, with Sedgemoor. The funding would come from the Public Works Loan Board and be repayable at low interest over a long term.

On March 26th. the full Council will have considered whether or not to make a bid for ownership, at what price and under what exact arrangements with Sedgemoor. This meeting will be held without Press or public present as confidential commercial matters will be discussed. However more details of the outcome of this meeting will be posted on the Town Hall notice board as soon as possible after the meeting.

Before any formal arrangement is entered into, the Town council will call a Public Meeting to explain the position, including the effect on Axbridge Council Tax payers, and to seek residents' views. The Council feels it would need general public support before engaging in such a major venture.

**WATCH THE TOWN HALL BOARDS FOR UPDATES  
ON THIS IMPORTANT TOWN ISSUE**

## **AXBRIDGE ACTION GROUP**

The Group has engaged a Traffic Management Consultant to produce suggestions for improvements in the town's traffic and pedestrian flows. The Group will call a public meeting to present ideas in May.

## **AXBRIDGE MUSEUM**

The annual grant from Sedgemoor to the Museum has been cut by about 26% and so there will be a need for some local fund-raising.

## **POLICE CONTACT**

Councillors agreed that there should be more regular and formal contact between the local police and the Town Council. There is still concern that the policing of parking in town appears to be a low priority.

## **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

The Chamber of Commerce will have a presence at April Farmers' Market and will be holding another environmental event at the Old Red Lion (Roxy Cinema) at 2.00 p.m.

## **COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT**

The Community Allotment Groups now has a real possibility of leasing two areas of land in town. Anyone who has already expressed an interest, or now wishes to join in, is asked to contact Sarah or Mark **as a matter of urgency** on 733440 or by email at [Axbridgeallotment@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Axbridgeallotment@hotmail.co.uk).

## **HARVEST HOME**

The Harvest Home will be on 7th. September. The organisers need to judge if there will be enough support to hire a marquee for a larger event. Please complete the slip on this newsletter and put it in the box at the Post Office, or bring it to the Council's stall at April Farmers' Market.

## **TOWN BAILIFF**

Although moving away from Axbridge, it was agreed that James MacKay should remain in office as Town Bailiff at least until the annual re-appointments in May.

## **HELP REQUIRED BY AXBRIDGE ACTION GROUP**

**Could you help with the Speed Gun? Training given - contact Jane Anderson on 01934 733689.**

### YOUTH SHELTER

Subject to agreement from the Diocesan Board (owners of the Furlong) and agreement from Sedgemoor that it requires no planning permission, the order will shortly be placed for the planned Youth Shelter. Although the costs have increased, the money can be found within the Council's funds.

### NOT CHARDS' - BUT READS' GARDEN

Following consultations the Council now has proposed to the developers that the new houses north of Meadow street car-park should be named Reads' Garden.

### LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT

The Council asks that any instances of low-flying (below 1000ft.) commercial, private or military aircraft over Axbridge be reported to the local police as it appears they have some recourse in these matters.

### BEATING THE BOUNDS

The Council hopes to have four parish boundary stones in place for the "Beating of the Bounds" walk on Rogation Sunday 27th. April. The walk will start from the Church Steps at 2.00 p.m.. Mike Day will lead.

### DISTRIBUTION OF FLYERS WITH "OYEZ"

Council agreed that the policy on distributing flyers with "Oyez" should be that ***"Flyers will only be delivered with "Oyez" if their content refers to an Axbridge-based organisation or event and is produced by a non-profit making Axbridge-based community group. No flyers advertising commercial ventures will be distributed. A donation of £10 per monthly delivery, in advance, will be appreciated. A maximum of 3 flyers per month will be allowed. Any exception to this policy shall be at the discretion of the Axbridge Promotion Advisory Committee."***

### FURLONG "SCAVENGE"

Councillors agreed to renew Sedgemoor's contract to carry out twice weekly rubbish clearance from bins and specific areas of the Furlong.

### FOOTPATH CLEARANCE - LENGTHSMAN

The public footpath from the by-pass to Hillside has been cleared by Somerset Highways and the steps by the Council's new lengthsmen, or handy-man, Andy Laken.

### FURLONG PLAY AREA

A new supply of bark has been put beneath the aerial runway and the new "Rock 'n Cross" equipment is in place.

### A38 JOINT PARISHES GROUP

The Council has had plans from Somerset Highways setting out a suggested alteration to the crossroads at the end of Cross Lane. The Joint Parishes Group (Compton Bishop, Weare, Axbridge and Cheddar) had submitted a detailed document setting out the local view of the effects that any alteration to the crossroads might have, at the end of Cross Lane, at Shute Shelve and at Lower Weare.

### DRIVER AWARENESS TRAINING

The Council is to invite Somerset Safety Partnership to run a "Driver Awareness Training" session in the Town Hall on 23rd. April at 19.30. This will be advertised once details are confirmed.

### TOWN ALLOTMENTS

Several more plots are to be created in the Town Allotments at Hillside. If you believe you are on a waiting list, or are interested in taking over a plot, please contact the Town Clerk and let her know.

### MAYOR AND DEPUTY-MAYOR ELECT

Cllr. Mrs Browne was approved as Mayor-elect and Cllr. Mrs. Trotman as her Deputy. They will take up office in May - for the year 2008/9.

### HARVEST HOME - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

I WOULD LIKE TO COME TO THE 2008 "HARVEST HOME" THERE WOULD BE ..... (NUMBER) IN MY GROUP.

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

.....TEL. No.: .....

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