



OYEZ!

**AXBRIDGE
TOWN COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
FOR
APRIL 2008**



BOUNDARY MARKED

The four corners of Axbridge parish are now identified by boundary stones such as the one in the picture. The stones were donated by Callow Quarry and carved by Mike Orchard, stone-mason, a local craftsman.

For clarity, Axbridge has five parishes on its borders - Compton Bishop, Winscombe, Shipham, Cheddar and Weare. This latter is not yet marked.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Our Somerset County Councillor, Mrs. Dawn Hill has funding at her discretion for local projects put forward by parish/town councils. Do you have ideas for Axbridge? Any suggestions must meet criteria set down by the County Council.

SOMERSET SHOWCASE

Cllr. Mrs. Trotman has agreed to take over the chairmanship of the Council's Showcase Committee. The Axbridge Chamber of Commerce has agreed in principle to become more closely involved.

POLICE CONTACT & ACTION

Councillors agreed that the Mayor of Axbridge, *ex-officio*, should be the regular liaison councillor to work more closely with the police at Cheddar.

Our local PCSO reported that by issuing more fixed penalty notices in the Square and elsewhere in Axbridge, parking and traffic flow had improved.

MUSEUM TRUST

The Museum is still in need of volunteer custodians to sit in the museum each afternoon. If you can help please contact Maggie Stanley **732121**

ACTION GROUP

The Action Group has had feedback from its chosen Independent Traffic Management Consultant. It plans to share initial thoughts with Town Councillors.

CALLOW QUARRY NEWS

Cllr. Jim Lukins reported that the operators of the Callow Quarry planned to introduce better dampening systems to limit dust problems during the summer. They also planned to use a disused quarry on the east of Shipham Hill as a storage area for blocks made during each winter.

YOUTH CLUB PATH LIGHTING

After several instances of vandalism the lighting on the upper path to the Youth Club is to be changed to tougher low-level lighting.

NEW ROLE FOR MAYOR

The mayor, Cllr. Mike Taylor has been elected Chairman of the Cheddar Valley Cluster group of parishes, which meet regularly to debate issues of common interest in the valley.

FARMERS' MARKET

In the event that a suitable table cannot be borrowed on a regular monthly basis for use by the Town Council at Farmers' Market, it was agreed that a price be obtained to buy.

INFORMATION BOARD

The Promotions Committee will look at the possible provision of an information board to highlight places to visit in and around the town.

COMMITTEES OR GROUPS?

Council agreed that most gatherings of councillors, working on future policy or making recommendations to full council, should be re-named as "groups" to avoid the impression that they were "committees" with powers of action delegated to them. The Showcase and Planning committees will remain so named as they have delegated powers.

BIN FOR DOG WALKERS

Councillors agreed to investigate the possibility of placing a dog-bin on the Strawberry Line to the east of Cheddar Road.

PLACES OF INTEREST

The Council's Promotions Advisory Group is looking at the possibility of creating a "Places of Interest" information board to give visitors to the town a better idea of the historical and other treasures to be found.

FURLONG CLEARANCE - LENGTHSMAN

The Council was told that the lengthsmen will trim long grass from alongside the First School's playing field area on the Furlong.

A38 JOINT PARISHES GROUP

The Council was told that the A38 Joint Parishes group had not endorsed any suggestions, or drawings, produced by Somerset County Council Highways officers for changes at the crossroads at Cross.

A further meeting would be taking place with SCC officers and it was anticipated that Compton Bishop would hold a public consultation meeting in the autumn.

COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

The Council agreed to pay for 12 months insurance and draw up a lease document for signature, so that the Community Allotment group could begin work this season. Contact Sarah or Mark **733440** if you are interested. There is to be a planning day on 3rd. May.

TOWN ALLOTMENTS

All plots on the Town Allotments at Hillside are now taken, but if you would like to be put on a waiting list, please contact the Town Clerk and let her know. This level of leasing means that a good income is now being generated.

It is hoped to increase and improve parking at the allotments. New boundary fencing may be needed, but this may be a Somerset County Council responsibility.

SHORTER MEETINGS PLEASE

Councillors approved a suggestion that ways should be sought to limit the time taken on council business each month. Axbridge meetings were reported to be longer than Cheddar's.

SOMERSET WASTE PARTNERSHIP

The Council had concerns about the trial being carried out in parts of the town by Somerset Waste Partnership. It appeared that some areas of town had been omitted from the trial and other areas excluded from wheelie-bin provision, even though the properties were suitable.

There was also unease that the town was selected for the trial without any consultation with the town council beforehand.

GREEN ISSUES

Council was given an update on the development of the Axbridge Environmental Group by one of its founders, Mr. David Parkin. Future gatherings of this informal group would be advertised.

COUNCIL RETURNS TO THE TOWN HALL

The July meeting of the Town Council will be at the Town Hall, in the main hall, now that other bookings have been re-scheduled.

TOWN TRUST/COUNCIL LIAISON

A meeting between Town Trust members and councillors had taken place to discuss issues of mutual interest. This included the proposed renovation of the Town Hall clock, fire safety issues at the Town Hall and the idea of making the Council Chamber more accessible to the general public, as a feature of the town. It was hoped that the town maces and regalia could also be displayed. The Trust was committed to repairing the maces over the next few months.

The Trust agreed to look at the possibility of renovating the metal bollards that mark out the parking areas in the Square.

RESERVOIR WORKS COMPLETED

Councillors were told that the major works at Cheddar reservoir were now almost complete, with just minor landscaping and tidying up to be done. The filtration plant is now fully operational. An Open Day is planned for some time in May.

DEFECTIVE STREET LIGHTING

If residents are aware of street lights not working, a phone call to the Town Clerk, stating the location of the lamp, together with its identifying number should result in a reasonably quick repair.

CHURCH STEPS RAILINGS

New railings and hand-rails on Church Steps and around the War Memorial have been agreed by the Council. A Planning Application has been submitted, but Sedgemoor District Council is now demanding more detailed architect-standard drawings. This is likely to add considerably to the cost. Councillors considered it an unreasonable requirement.

MAYOR-MAKING 2008

The Annual Mayor Making meeting will be in the Town Hall on Monday May 12th. from 7.30 p.m.. This is a public meeting - open to residents. Prompt start at 8.00 p.m.

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