



OYEZ!

**NEWS FROM
THE JULY
MEETING OF
AXBRIDGE
TOWN COUNCIL**

FURTHER ROAD CLOSURES

The County Council will be closing Moorland Street for 2 days - starting on 4th. August and Moor Green/Church Road for 10 days starting 11th. August to improve drainage.

CHURCH STEPS LIGHTING

The Council's Highways Group has met local residents to discuss the impact of the proposed lighting scheme for Church Steps. There are concerns about the possible increase in anti-social behaviour should the scheme go ahead in its original form. Council wished to continue with the scheme in principle, but to ask Somerset County Council if modifications may be made that may satisfy residents' concerns.

FARMERS' MARKET - PARKING IN THE SQUARE

The Council was told of the problems encountered by the Farmers' market organisers when faced by cars which are left parked in the area of the Square needed by stallholders. Residents and others are reminded to look out for the notices attached to the bollards in the Square before each market, which set out the parking rules for the period of the market. The market manager will call in the police if these rules are ignored.

MUSEUM TRUST

The Axbridge and District Museum Trust had written to the Town Council asking if financial help might be given to off-set the reduction in funding (£5,000) made this year by Sedgemoor District Council. All other neighbouring parishes have received a similar request. Council resolved to support, but would need to ask more questions and consider the matter further as no sum had been set aside in the budget this year.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Axbridge Chamber of Commerce has provided a shield to be presented to the "Best Business Frontage" in the Axbridge in Bloom competition to be announced at Somerset Showcase.

NEW PCSO FOR AXBRIDGE

Council was informed that a new PCSO has been appointed to patrol the town. She will be re-commencing the "Beat Surgeries" at the Town Hall shortly.

AXBRIDGE ACTION GROUP

Following the group's public presentation of Mike Haire's suggestions for improvements to traffic flow in the town, a number of comments from residents have been passed on to him. A final report will be published and made public shortly.

WORK IN THE CHURCHYARD

Work to tidy up the churchyard is well underway and John Shaw was thanked for his particular efforts in clearing the northern side. Sadly, Sedgemoor District Council had been less than helpful in taking away the cuttings and debris from the end of Chestnut Avenue as had been agreed. Work on recording the memorials had yet to begin.

CHURCH STEPS RAILINGS

The Council will submit a planning application for this work and has received an offer from John Shaw to paint both the old and new railings on the steps and around the churchyard.

AXBRIDGE DESIGN STATEMENT

A group now exists to take this work forward and another meeting has been called for 17th. September. More volunteers would be welcomed. Please contact the Town Clerk in the first instance.

TOWN ENTRANCE STONES

Councillors approved the sum of £40 (+VAT) for plaques to be attached to the two town entrance stones to read as follows: "*This stone is to commemorate the 450th. Anniversary of the incorporation of the town by a charter by King Philip and Queen Mary*"

SORT-IT PLUS WASTE COLLECTION

The Council is keen to hear residents views about the "Sort-it Plus" waste collection trial being run by Somerset waste partnership. Both negative and positive comments are being collated by the Town Clerk for onward transmission. Let's hear your ideas and experiences!

**AXBRIDGE HARVEST HOME - 7TH SEPTEMBER
TICKETS AVAILABLE - FARM SHOP/CHEMIST'S**

NEW WORKS AT THE ALLOTMENT

The County Council has set out its conditions for the creation of a car-parking area at the Hillside allotments. Council agreed to accept these and to submit a planning application for the work. This, and the provision of a water supply for the allotments would be met from County Councillor Dawn Hill's Community Grant fund and not from Town Council budget.

PROPOSED NEW CRICKET NETS

Council still hope to be able to assist the Axbridge Cricket Club with the purchase of new nets for the Furlong. Councillors expected the club to be able to match this sum and was satisfied that as a result of this facility, coaching would be available to youngsters of the town.

OLD BUTCHER'S YARD FOOTPATH

The Council was told that remedial work had been carried out to the footpath area outside Old Butcher's Yard as a result of pressure from both Axbridge and Sedgemoor Councils. The latter was arranging enforcement action against the developer of the site to ensure that a new footpath is constructed in line with the planning permission granted for the development.

AXBRIDGE PAGEANT

Council approved the transfer of funds that it holds in trust, to the newly-formed Axbridge Pageant Committee. Cllr. Bratt explained that the proposed pageant for 2010 would include a number of other events, thus making it both a pageant and a festival.

The committee is anxious to hire a space where all pageant costumes may be laid out and stored in dry conditions. If anyone can help with this please contact the Town Clerk in the first instance.

REMOVAL OF TELEPHONE BOX

Councillors were told that BT plan to remove the telephone box at the end of Parkfield, without further consultation. This may be because there is another box within 400m. sited in the Square. The Clerk will bring this to the attention of SDC.

CONTAINER FOR THE FURLONG

The Council approved the purchase and siting of a storage container for the Furlong field - to be used by the Saxons Football Club. The containers will be further away from the backs of houses in Moorland Street.

NEW BUS STOPS

The Council's Highways Advisory Group reported that there were serious concerns at the proposals being put forward about re-siting some of the town's bus stops. A site meeting to clarify matters will be held with those making the proposals.

SUSTAINABLE AXBRIDGE GROUP

David Parkin spoke in the public participation part of the meeting to give an update of the Sustainable Axbridge project. There will be a concerted effort to help with reducing the costs of loft-insulation and a car-sharing scheme seems a possibility if a volunteer co-ordinator can be found. There will be material available to residents shortly in the form of a flyer and a display at Somerset Showcase.

SOMERSET SHOWCASE

The Council was told that plans for this event are well in hand. The organisers are keen to provide extra temporary waste-bins around the Square on Showcase day. Does anyone have spare rubbish bins to offer? Please contact the Town Clerk or Cllr. Mrs. Trotman.

ALLOTMENT RENTAL INCREASE

Councillors approved an increase of £2.50 in the annual rent of an allotment from 2009.

MEADOW STREET CAR-PARK

The Council agreed to continue negotiations with Sedgemoor District Council for the purchase of Meadow Street car-park. No decision to buy will be made without first holding a public consultation with residents as any purchase is likely to have council tax implications.

FUN DAY

Councillors expressed their thanks and admiration for the efforts of everyone involved in salvaging something for the Fun Day in July. They particularly thanked the Town Trust for making the Town Hall available at short notice.

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

**STREET MARKET AT SHOWCASE AGAIN THIS YEAR -
6TH SEPTEMBER - FORMS FROM CHEMIST/P.O**