



# OYEZ!

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newsletter

August 2008



After months of negotiations between Axbridge Town Council and Sedgemoor District Council (SDC), there is the possibility of a deal being struck for the purchase of Moorland Street car-park. The details are still being finalised, but your Town Council feels that it is now in a position to put matters before residents at **an Open Public Meeting**. This is planned for **Monday 29th. September at 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall**.

Before undertaking the step of borrowing money to buy the car-park, with an inevitable increase in Council Tax, the council feels that it must be aware of public feeling. Details of the proposed management of the car-park in the immediate and long term future and the likely ongoing costs will all be put to residents for comment.

If you wish to have your say on this proposal, then please be sure to come along.

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PCSO Susan Venn-Adams will be re-starting **Beat Surgeries** fortnightly at the Town Hall. See Town Hall board for dates.

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The lighting scheme for **Church Steps** to Back Lane is to be modified, with the lights being timer-controlled to switch off at 10.00 p.m. if that can be arranged.

Work on the handrails for Church Steps is still ongoing.

**The Axbridge Pageant 2010** organisers are still seeking dry storage space in the area, for the many costumes and "props" that will be needed. If you can help, please let the Town Clerk know.

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It was reported that during the last 6 years the **Aggregates Levy Board** has made donations to Axbridge projects to the tune of £30,000. Cheddar has had £61,600 and Shipham £20,000. This money is collected from the quarry operations throughout the Mendip hills and distributed to councils and other groups to fund worthwhile ideas.

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The Town Council was told that Sedgemoor District Council has issued an Enforcement Order against the developers of **"Old Butcher's Yard"**, requiring them to finish the footway outside the properties, in line with the Planning Permission they were granted by Sedgemoor District Council.

However, there still appears to be a dispute between the Highway Authority (Somerset County Council) and the Planning Authority (SDC) as to the exact layout of the footway. Watch this space - and that one too!

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Councillors heard that the Somerset Farmers' Market (SFM) organiser would like to see some **open-air entertainment at future markets** in the Square. It was decided to ask SFM for more information. In the meantime, if you are part of a group of entertainers, or know of a group that might wish to use a Saturday morning in the square as a venue, please contact the Town Clerk, or any councillor with your suggestion.

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It was reported that British Telecom proposes to **remove the payphone** from the Jubilee Road/Parkfield junction. The reason seems to be that the box appears to be uneconomical and there is another payphone within 400 metres - at the Square.

**SHOWCASE - SATURDAY 6TH . SEPTEMBER**

**A FREE ALL DAY EVENT - FOR ALL**

There was amazement at a Planning Application submitted by SDC for two **illustrated signs** directing traffic to "Wookey Hole Caves" - to be sited on the already hazardous roundabout at the Townsend Junction. It was generally agreed that this accident black spot should not have any additional signage. The Council will write to the SDC and Somerset Highways to make clear its objections.

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The Highways Advisory Group reported that the proposed **siting of improved bus-stops** in the town was still under discussion. The positioning of the stops at Cheddar Road (east end) near Barnabas Close and at Jubilee Road was now generally agreed. There was still concern over the Townsend/Houlgate Way (west end) proposals. Residents should be aware that once firm plans are available consultation will take place.

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Councillors agreed to thank both John Shaw for his volunteer efforts in **tidying the churchyard** and Dave Aggett of Sedgemoor District Council for arranging the removal of rubbish

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### **Showcase needs rubbish bins!**

Can you help the organisers of this year's Showcase (6th. September) by lending them a dustbin, for placement in and around the Square during the day?

**Offers to Town Clerk or Jennifer Trotman (733306).**

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The Council's Maintenance contractor (lengthsman) will be **clearing** a number of **pathways** that run between houses, where there is overhanging vegetation and weeds and grass in abundance.

Please be patient as this may cause some obstruction. If you know of other areas of town that need tidying please contact the Town Clerk.

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Work will take place shortly on the **Furlong** in preparation for the siting of two storage containers.

The possible financial and insurance implications of a 2 hour extension to the usual temporary **road closure** arrangements for **Blackberry Carnival** (20th September) were discussed. The Carnival committee asked for the road closure to end at 4 p.m. as in previous years.

No additional financial support was therefore required.

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SDC has been unable to make a grant from its RTL3 fund towards the new **cricket nets** planned for the Furlong. It has funds for use in the Cheddar Valley area amounting to £50,000, but none of the proposals put forward met SDC criteria. The County Councillor has been asked to approve £5,000 from her discretionary fund for this project

A review of the SDC criteria for distributing this fund is to be undertaken.



### **SORT-IT PLUS**

**YOUR COMMENTS MAY BE MADE DIRECTLY TO SOMERSET WASTE PARTNERSHIP, OR TO THE TOWN CLERK WHO WILL PASS THEM ON.**

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**



**Once a month a small group of volunteers makes sure that every household in the town receives a copy of "Oyez". Some deliver as many as 60 copies.**

**It is essential that more volunteers come forward to lighten their load. Could you deliver 10-20 copies in your area of town?**

**Call Paul Passey 733373 to volunteer**

### **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)