



# OYEZ!

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

## **ACTION GROUP PRESENTATION**

The Final Report and recommendations produced by consultant Mike Haire for the Axbridge Action Group were presented to the council before the October meeting. Whilst not all suggestions found favour, members felt that it would be useful for the Action Group to continue to discuss ideas with Somerset Highways, perhaps with a view to temporary changes being implemented to see their likely effect.

## **LACK OF COMMUNICATION**

The Council was disappointed at both the lack of a report from the local police and the absence of a representative from the meeting. It was agreed that this lack of communication should be brought to the attention of the local officer.

The expected "Beat Surgeries" in the Town hall had not yet taken place.

## **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The Council was told that the Chamber of Commerce is considering the idea of a second market in the Square each month - not a Farmers' Market, but something more along the lines of antiques and craft items. The Chamber is also considering taking over the organising of Somerset Showcase for 2009.

## **AXBRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL**

Councillors congratulated the school on its first-rate Ofsted Inspection Report and also Mrs Stephanie Gall on her appointment as Chairman of Governors.

## **CHRISTMAS TREES & SANTA**

Axbridge Sports and Social intend to set up the Christmas trees in town on Saturday 6th. December and wish to remind residents that "Santa in the Square" will be on 20th. December.

## **SUSTAINABLE AXBRIDGE NETWORK**



There will be a "Freecycle" event on Saturday 1st. November from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in the Surgery car park, Houlgate Way. This is a "swapping" of your unwanted stuff for others' unwanted stuff. "Freecycle" avoids landfill and saves money!

## **OTHER RECYCLING ISSUES**

Councillors were told that there were no immediate plans to remove the recycling facility in Meadow Street car-park.

In the event of problems with the kerb-side collection system, boxes remaining unemptied, or mess, residents should contact Somerset Waste Partnership (0845 408 2543)

## **ADVERTISING AT TOWNSEND JUNCTION**

The members were angered at the decision by Sedgemoor District Council to grant itself permission to erect an advertising sign for "Wookey Hole Caves" at Townsend Junction. Somerset Highways is opposed to the proposal. The Chamber of Commerce is considering an appeal to the Ombudsman.

Councillors felt that this application should have gone before a Development Control Committee at Sedgemoor. It was agreed that details of any possible payment between Wookey Hole and the District Council should be requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

## **CO-OP SHOP REFURBISHMENT**

Efforts are being made to minimise the inconvenience likely as the Co-op shop in the Square undergoes a re-fit between the end of October and 21st. November. Parking at the west end of the Square is likely to be suspended to allow space for skips.

A limited archaeological dig will take place in areas underlying the floor of the building.

## **SATISFACTORY AUDIT INSPECTION**

The Clerk was able to report that the Council's External Auditors had accepted, and made no comments about, the end of year returns. She was congratulated.

## **BUDGET SETTING - 2009/10**

A draft budget was discussed and it is anticipated that with minor amendments a final version will be tabled at the November meeting. At this point the Precept (amount of Council Tax) will be determined. This will be an open public meeting.

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC - COME AND HAVE YOUR SAY**

### **GRANTS MADE**

The Council agreed to make grants to local organisations as follows:

Air ambulance	£150
Vitalise (holidays for carers)	£50
Victim Support	£50
Citizens Advice Bureau	£50
Age Concern	£50

### **NEW FEES & CHARGES FOR CEMETERY**

Councillors agreed a new scale of charges for Axbridge Cemetery. A copy may be obtained from the Town Clerk.

### **CONTAINERS ON THE FURLONG**

The new storage containers have been put in place on the Furlong and the Council expressed thanks to all the volunteers who had helped in this task.

### **CHANGING ROOMS REVIEW**

Users and others involved with the Furlong Changing Rooms would meet soon to discuss the functioning of this Council asset.

### **POSSIBLE SAFETY BARRIER**

The Council's Highways Committee is to look into the possibility of placing a safety barrier at the Jubilee Road end of the footpath from Chestnut Avenue. This would prevent cyclists from riding at speed around the blind bend, at speed, to endanger pedestrians.

### **EMERGENCY PLANNING**

It is hoped to invite speakers from Gloucestershire Chamber of Commerce and Somerset County Council to talk to councillors about local emergency planning, some time in early 2009.

### **NOMINATION**

Councillor Dennis Bratt was nominated as a candidate for a place on Sedgemoor District Council's Standards Committee.

### **MEADOW STREET CAR PARK**

Following the Public Open Meeting's decision to support the Town Council's attempt to buy Meadow Street car-park from Sedgemoor District Council, it was agreed that this item would best be dealt with at a special meeting of Council, rather than as one item amongst many at the monthly meeting. Such meetings would be open to the public, except where sensitive contractual matters may be discussed.

### **"SPOOF LETTER"**

The Council unanimously condemned a recent anonymous communication sent to

each councillor, which apparently referred to a member. All anonymous correspondence was to be abhorred and ignored.

### **LENGTHSMAN**

Councillors were given details of the recent work carried out by the lengthsmen. This included the tidying and clearing of footpaths within the town.

Any residents who feel there may be a task for the lengthsmen is asked to contact either Cllr. Jim Lukins or the Town Clerk.

### **CLERK'S TRAINING**

The Council agreed to budget for the Clerk to undertake professional qualification training during the next two years.

This qualification would be valuable in the event that the Town achieves "Quality Parish Council" status and is able to take on further responsibilities.

### **MUSEUM FUNDING**

Councillors approved the inclusion of a sum of £1000 within the draft budget to support Axbridge and District Museum Trust,

**ONE SUGGESTED CHANGE TO THE SQUARE IS ILLUSTRATED BELOW - AN OPEN AND PAVED SPACE IN FRONT OF THE SHOP AND MUSEUM AT THE WEST END OF THE SQUARE.**

**THIS IS FROM MIKE HAIRE'S REPORT "STREETS AND PARKING IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR AXBRIDGE"**



### **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)