



OYEZ!

The latest news from
Axbridge Town Council
JUNE 2009

POLICE PRESENCE

PC Tom Pether reported that the local police planned to provide an enhanced presence at Fun Day (July 4th), Somerset Showcase (29th August), and the Blackberry Carnival (26th September) particularly in the evenings of these events.

BOLLARDS IN OLD COACH ROAD

It was reported that replacement bollards will be installed in Old Coach Road leading to Moor Green very shortly.

ROAD CLOSURES

Councillors were told that there would be road closures in place to isolate the Square for both the Showcase, from 08.00 to 23.00 and the Blackberry Carnival, from 13.00 to 16.00 and that bus services through the town would consequently be re-routed.

EMERGENCY SERVICE ACCESS PROBLEMS

Members were told that there would be an "on-site" meeting between highways officers, police and others to discuss problems of access in such parts of the town as Knightstone, where large numbers of parked cars may impede the access of emergency vehicles. All residents are asked to be aware of how and where they park their vehicles "on-street".

PARKING SURVEY

Deputy-Mayor Cllr. Jeremy Gall had carried out an informal survey at the June farmers' Market to get the views of residents and visitors about parking in the Square and in Meadow Street car-park. Amongst the findings was a clear wish to see cheaper annual season tickets for the car-park and continued free, but time limited parking in the Square.

**SORT-IT PLUS PROBLEMS? CONTACT CLLR.
MRS. SCOTT - 01934 733341**

NOTICE BOARDS

In view of the delayed meeting between Council and Town Trust members, Cllr. Paul Passey was asked to negotiate directly with the Town Trust Chairman about the erection of new Council and public notice boards at the Town Hall and in the Square. The Council had money in the budget for this work.

CHURCH STEPS HAND-RAILS

Work could be expected on the improvement to the hand-rails at Church Steps in the next month.

BUS STOP AT HOULGATE WAY

Residents from Houlgate Way spoke at the meeting to set out the results of their contacts with Somerset Highways and the First Bus Company. It was clear that there had been a lack of communication between the two organisations, the bus company declaring to residents that it had not been involved in "the decision to site a temporary/experimental bus stop at the north end of Houlgate Way". Members were unable to make any further comment until this situation had been clarified.

COLD CALLING

The police warned of the increase in "cold-calling" in the district. All residents should ask to see identification from any unexpected callers at their doors.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Mrs. Dawn Hill was welcomed to the meeting and congratulated on being re-elected as the County Councillor for the District. No business had yet been transacted by the new County Council, but she warned that the fact that the South West Regional Development Grant had been cut by £56M could only result in future cuts to services.

AXBRIDGE PAGEANT

Cllr. Mrs. Ham reported that a Pageant website was imminent, with links from and to other relevant sites including the Town Council site (www.axbridgepageant.org.uk). It is proposed to sell "Early Bird Tickets" at reduced prices very shortly and Pageant Festival merchandise such as T-shirts.

FINANCE

The 2008/09 changing rooms/furlong pitches invoice has been issued to the football clubs for payment.

Members voted to make the first half payment of the Council's regular annual grant of £3,640 to the Town Trust. This money is used to ensure the upkeep of the Town Hall. Fears were expressed about the knock-on effect on the Town Hall income of any closure of Axbridge Museum. The Museum Trust currently rents the Old Court Room at the Town Hall. Were this arrangement to stop, not only would all the stored museum artefacts have to be re-housed, but the loss of income to the Town Trust would be problematic.

FURLONG

The Council has a quote for the work to repair the hole in the safety surfacing by the swings before it gets worse and to repair the broken assault course chain. Council is still waiting to hear from the supplier with reference to repairs to the youth shelter.

It was agreed that an Automated External Defibrillator could be installed in the Jack Todd Changing Rooms. This piece of equipment had been donated by the Midcalf family, in memory of their son Tom.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

If any residents experience difficulty of access on any of the Public Rights of Way in the parish they should contact Cllr. Jim Lukins directly or make contact through the Town Clerk.

PUBLIC RIGHT TO KNOW

Residents are reminded that a full agenda showing items to be discussed at monthly meetings is displayed 3 clear days in advance of Council meetings. Minutes and agendas also are displayed on the Council's website. Electors are invited to attend meetings to hear what is said by their representatives, to speak themselves, to ask questions and to make comments or suggestions on any agenda item, or raise any other matter of local public concern during the Public Participation section of the meeting.

A THANK YOU

In the Council Chamber of 22nd June, the Mayor, Cllr Mrs. Trotman, hosted a gathering of people involved in the distribution of "Oyez" ; to say thank you for delivering the newsletter to every household in the town.



The first issue was produced in June 2005 and it is calculated that over 40 issues have been delivered by these volunteers - over 30,000 copies.

A NEW BEGINNING

The Modern Town Archivist, Mrs. Maggie Tur has agreed to lead the "Voices of Axbridge Project" with the support of Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society. The Mayor of Axbridge has agreed to be Patron of the project. A re-launch meeting will be held on Monday 13th. July and details will be on notice boards.

The Cycling Mayor Needs You!

The Mayor's Charity this year is Action Medical Research (www.action.org.uk), and our Mayor hopes to raise at least £1500 for them by cycling from London to Paris from the 22nd - 25th July (343 miles in 4 days!). She has become "The Cycling Mayor"! A total of over £1200 has been raised so there's still a way to go, and the more raised the better. If you'd like more details, please visit www.thecyclingmayor.com.

You can also sponsor direct at www.action.org.uk/~JenniferT or call on 01934 733306. It's all for a great cause, so please give generously.

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