



NEWS FROM AXBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL—AUGUST 2009

FRIENDS OF AXBRIDGE MUSEUM

This newly formed fund-raising group is looking for volunteers to help solve the funding problems at the Museum. Please contact Kate Browne (733208).

POLICE REPORT

PC Tom Pether attended the meeting and thanked all who had attended the PACT (Police and Communities Together) meeting in the Town Hall. The recent break-in at the Co-op store was thought to be one of a series in the district. He felt that the incidence of anti-social behavior in the town had decreased. Council asked that the PCSO should monitor the illegal on-street parking more regularly rather than in concentrated time-periods.

PAGEANT - EARLY TICKETS

The Pageant committee is offering early ticket sales at discounted prices and anyone wanting to take up this offer should go to the website axbridgepageant.org.uk to place their orders, alternatively they should contact Cllr. Pauline Ham (732062)

ALLOTMENTS

Councillors agreed to make an area of the allotments at Hillside available to the Community Allotment group free of charge. The area is deemed unsuitable for normal cultivation but would be a suitable addition to the group's orchard area.

CRICKET NETS

The ground works should take place in the week commencing 21st September (weather permitting) with the carpets and nets in placed by the end of February 2010.

ANNUAL AUDIT

The Annual Audit of the Council's accounts has been completed to the entire satisfaction of the external auditors. The clerk is to be congratulated.

CHURCH STEPS HANDRAILS

These are now in place and have been painted by volunteers. Councillors expressed thanks to Mr Gerald Hellier, who donated the paint, and to Mr David Skinner and Mr Kelvin Hart for painting them (one coat has been done, and Mr John Shaw is arranging for a second coat).

PROPOSED CHANGES TO BUS STOPS

Copies of the plans showing proposed changes to bus stops at Barnabas Close and Jubilee Road had been on display at the August Farmers' Market and were shown again at the Council Meeting. Residents spoke and made known their concerns about the proposed changes at Barnabas Close/Cheddar Road.

Somerset Council's current recommendations for changes at both Jubilee Road and Barnabas Close were supported by a majority of Councillors. There will be no changes to the location of stops at Houlgate Way/Townsend.

COMMUNITY STALL AT FARMERS' MARKET

This stall is allowed within the Somerset Farmers' Market at no charge on the understanding that it is used by non-profit making local community groups, or charities—and that the activity proposed does not conflict with the other stall-holders. Anyone wishing to make use of it **MUST** contact either Cllr. Passey (733373) or the Town Clerk to ensure that their proposed use of the space is acceptable to the Market Manager.

VOICES OF AXBRIDGE

This oral history project, of which the Mayor is Patron, is continuing to record the memories of Axbridge residents and this work is being co-ordinated with the work of the Council's Modern Town Archivist. There will be a display of material at the Somerset Showcase.

BRISTOL AIRPORT EXPANSION

The Council was told that plans for expansion at Bristol International Airport have been submitted to North Somerset Council. Consultation with Somerset County and Sedgemoor District Council has been minimal. Members were particularly concerned at the predicted traffic increase on A38, once the work is complete.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Members were told that investigations into the possible provision of affordable housing within the town had proceeded without consultation with the Town Council. A meeting was to be held with the promoters.

CAR PARK PURCHASE

The contract for purchase and the proposals for the management of Meadow Street car-park had now been finalised and the funding had been agreed with the Public Works Loan Board. Contract exchange was imminent. Council agreed to set up a working party to consider all aspects of future car-park management – including charges.

OLD BUTCHER'S YARD FOOTWAY

Councillors were unhappy to discover that no further progress had been made in respect of the completion of the footway outside the Old Butcher's Yard development in Old Church Road. They requested accurate information about the Enforcement Process, said to have been instigated by Sedgemoor District Council.

CONTAINERS ON THE FURLONG

The storage containers on the Furlong are in the process of being painted. This will include the addition of "anti-vandal paint" to the top of them. This paint sticks to the skin and clothing of anyone climbing over it and parents are asked to stress to youngsters the dangers of climbing on the containers.

SCHOOL GOVERNORS SOUGHT

SCC needs people who care about education and have time, energy and enthusiasm to be a school governor and so to support teaching and learning, be friends to a school and help to solve problems – for more details contact Somerset County Council (01823 355757)

FRIENDS OF HOULGATE SOCIETY

Cllr Mrs Trotman announces that with regret, due to lack of interest, the planned October trip to Normandy has been cancelled. The Society thanks all those who did sign up and will be making an announcement in the next few months about what happens next.

SUSTAINABLE AXBRIDGE NETWORK— ECOMETERS AND WARM STREETS

Through Sedgemoor District Council the group has two "ecometers" that help you check your home electricity use. They will loan them out together or singly for one or two weeks. They're both simple to use, but we're glad to give a bit of help and explanation if needed.

One is a single appliance meter – good for checking how much a particular item is using over a certain time, for example checking a fridge over some very hot days! The other continually measures whole household use through a simple mains input attachment that transmits to a tabletop readout. It can be set to your own price for a unit of electricity, and then easily shows total cost for the last hour, day, week etc.

Under the Warm Streets scheme volunteers get training, support and advice in checking households in their area and making referrals for grant-aided insulation. Everyone is eligible for substantial discounts – of at least 50% - on loft and cavity wall insulation. It may even be free in some cases.

If you would like to find out more about either of the above please phone David Parkin (733762) or email

info@sustainableaxbridge.org.uk

**TO RAISE ISSUES WITH THE TOWN
COUNCIL YOU MAY SPEAK BEFORE
ANY MONTHLY MEETING FOR UP
TO 3 MINUTES, CONTACT A
COUNCILLOR, USE THE COUNCIL'S
WEBSITE OR CONTACT THE TOWN
CLERK MRS. VICKY BRICE ON
07884264033**