

OYEZ!
FEBRUARY
News from your Town
Council



CIVIC SERVICE

**A celebration of the
Axbridge community**

Three Axbridge residents, Dennis Bratt, John Chard and Jackie Fowler were presented with Civic Awards by the High Sheriff of Somerset at the Civic Service held on Sunday 27th February.



Axbridge residents and invited civic guests filled the Parish Church to recognise the voluntary contribution made by the three award winners and to celebrate the part played by many others in making the town a true community.

BUDGET CUTS AND BUS SERVICES

Members were told that there was to be a review of the viability of bus services in Somerset and that there was evidence that only 2 services in the whole of the county were profit-making.

PAGEANT COMMITTEE

The Special General Meeting of the Axbridge Pageant Committee will take place on **Tuesday 8th March** at 8.00 p.m. in the Skittle Alley at the Lamb, where the on-going plans for the Pageant will be discussed.

**AXBRIDGE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
(ACP)**

Councillors heard a report from the latest meeting of the Axbridge Community Partnership. This is a group comprising representatives from a number of town organisations, which it is hoped may be able to develop projects to the benefit of the town, which the Town Council alone may, by law, be unable to promote.

Grants may also be available to charities and non-statutory groups which are inaccessible to the Council. Members agreed that Cllrs Trotman and Taylor should represent the Council at ACP meetings. Some amendments were suggested to the draft ACP constitution; these mainly centred on how to increase the membership of the group and how to publicise its meetings and activities.

The Council endorsed a proposed ACP policy that would *"improve Axbridge to make it more pedestrian friendly and to slow transit of traffic"* through the town. The first Annual General Meeting of this group is on **Thursday 10th March** at the Lamb.

**LIGHTING BACK LANE AND CHURCH
STEPS**

As there had still been no progress on the part of Somerset County Council to complete the lighting scheme for Back Lane and Church Steps, despite the plans and funding being available for almost two years, members voted to write to the SCC Chief Executive to ask that an investigation be made into why there has been such an unacceptable delay.

**SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL (SDC)
LARGE PROJECTS**

SDC has included in its draft Local Development Framework some large projects that *may* affect the area. This includes the possible construction of the second Cheddar (Axbridge) Reservoir. Current information on this project may be found at the Bristol Water website - bristolwater.co.uk/uploads/news/res.pdf

MAYOR'S BANQUET

The Mayor's Banquet will take place this year on **Saturday 16th July** in the Town Hall. Attendance is by invitation of the Mayor and/or individual councillors.

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID)

The SID will be installed in Cheddar Road three times this year in March, July and October.

SDC BUDGET

There is to be no increase in the Council Tax raised by SDC.

AXBRIDGE MUSEUM

The Council voted to make a previously agreed donation of £1,100.00 to the Museum Trust to help meet its expenses for the year ahead. Members noted that an entrance fee of perhaps £2.50 per person would most likely be introduced for the 2011 season.

The first day of opening for the Museum will be **Friday 1st April** with a formal opening ceremony on **Saturday 2nd April**.

ALLOTMENT RENTS

Council reviewed the allotment rents so that all rents (with the exception of three allotments) will be £15.00 per year with effect from 2011/12. This will generate a similar amount of income, as currently, to enable the Council to provide, maintain and continue to improve the allotments, whilst simplifying the administration and bringing all plots into line, now that fencing costs have been met. Council agreed, in principle, to install a second water trough by the car park area at the allotments.

WASTE COLLECTION AND STREET RUBBISH

The Council would like to urge householders to try to ensure that paper and other light rubbish does not blow out of containers into the surrounding streets on "bin day". Somerset Waste Partnership will be asked to offer advice on how best to limit the mess.

REPORT OF COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

The Complaints Committee met to hear a complaint about a meeting of the Town Council's Planning and Licences Committee on 6th December 2010. The Committee had found no grounds for complaint but changes will be made to the Planning Committee remit and the Town Council Standing Orders in order to improve procedures.

MAY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

There will be elections for District and Town Councillors on **Thursday 5th May**. The Town Council will have 13 vacancies to fill by election. All electors on the Electoral Roll are eligible to stand. There will be further information about how to become a nominated candidate at the Farmers' Market on **Saturday 5th March** or contact the Town Clerk, or any current Town Councillor.

SOUND BOX

Councillors expressed general support for the proposal that a "Sound Box" should be bought for the use of the Modern Town Archivist. This piece of equipment would be loaded with sound tracks of parts of interviews carried out within the "Voices of Axbridge" Project and placed initially in the Museum for local residents and visitors to hear memories of Axbridge recorded by townfolk. The equipment is designed to be portable so could be used at Farmers' Market, Showcase, Fun Day or in any town venue.



RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND MEETINGS (3RD MONDAY EACH MONTH), TO RAISE ISSUES OR JUST TO LISTEN. MATTERS MAY BE BROUGHT TO COUNCIL'S ATTENTION VIA THE TOWN CLERK MRS VICKY BRICE 07884 264033