

**OYEZ!  
MARCH  
News from your Town  
Council**



**MAY ELECTIONS**

**The election for a new Town Council will take place on Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup>.** This is

also District Election and Referendum Day – for or against the Alternative Vote system of election for MPs.

Axbridge Town Council has 13 (thirteen) places on its council and it is known that some present councillors will be standing down. Any resident of Axbridge, or anyone living within 3 miles of the parish boundary, who is on an electoral roll, may stand as a candidate. Nomination papers may be obtained from the Town Clerk or from SDC offices at Bridgwater.

All nomination papers must be with SDC by **noon on April 4<sup>th</sup>.**

It is particularly important that there are no vacant places on the council left to be filled by co-option after May as this may limit what our town council will be able to achieve under the new Localism Bill. Please don't just sit there – get involved in the governance of your community.

**MAYOR AND DEPUTY**

Members unanimously supported nominations for Cllr. Baz Hamblin as Mayor for the coming year and Cllr. Ian Laken as his Deputy. Assuming that they are re-elected on May 5<sup>th</sup>, then formal election will take place at Mayor-making on **May 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**PARKING ISSUES**

Residents are reminded that if they have concerns about parking, dog fouling or any other local issue that the police may be able to deal with, then they can contact our PCSO (Susan Venn-Adams) by telephoning 07717701699.

**BLACKBERRY CARNIVAL 2011**

The Blackberry Carnival Committee AGM will be on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April** at 7.30 p.m. at the Lamb Inn. Residents are urged to come along, not necessarily to be on the committee, but to simply show support for this community event.

**SOMERSET SHOWCASE**

The Showcase will take place on **Saturday**

**30<sup>th</sup> April** with the Square, West Street, High Street and St Mary's Street all being "no access". There will be free car-parking and access to both the car-parks in Moorland Street and Meadow Street (Axbridge Town Car Park).

**STANDING ORDER CHANGE**

Council agreed to make some changes to the procedure to be adopted at council meetings following a recent complaint. These are designed to ensure that due formality is maintained by chairmen of committees and by those wishing to address the councillors as members of the public or applicants/objectors in the case of planning matters.

**COUNCIL OFFICES**

It was agreed that in view of the increased workload, paperwork and office equipment now involved with the role of clerk to the council, members should consider the possibility of finding premises to serve as a Council Office within the town.

**WEBSITE CHANGES**

Members approved the suggestion that the diary page should be uploaded to the council's website (**[www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk](http://www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk)**) by approved individuals or groups within the community.

**COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Before the March meeting Mr. David Parkin gave councillors information about the recent work of the Sustainable Axbridge Network (SANE) group. He also outlined moves being encouraged by central Government to encourage local communities and individuals to both save energy and produce it locally by a variety of means.

The group plans to hold a public meeting on these issues later in the year. The town council agreed that in principle it would do what it could to support the group's aims. The council agreed to elect a liaison officer to the SANE group following the May elections.

**AXBRIDGE MUSEUM**

The Museum will be officially opened by the Mayor on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April when entry to the museum will then be free.** Normally an entrance fee of £2.50 will buy a passport ticket for use throughout the year. The area of the shop will remain free access; only access to the museum items will be subject to the entrance fee.

#### PLANTERS IN THE SQUARE

Members voted to make the council's annual donation to the Town Trust (£300) towards the cost of stocking and maintaining the planters in the Square.

#### FURLONG EQUIPMENT

The council agreed to a proposal from the Leisure & Recreation group to investigate a project to install four pieces of outdoor gym equipment on the Furlong; a keep fit facility for young and old. They also agreed to two additional pieces of small play equipment in the children's play area in a continued programme of improvement and maintenance. Both of these projects will only take place if grant funding is achieved to cover the full costs.

#### WATER TROUGH AT THE ALLOTMENTS

It was agreed that a new water trough should be installed for the use of allotment holders and be placed near to the car-park area.

#### SOUND BOX FOR ARCHIVIST

Council approved the purchase of a "sound box" for use by the Modern Town Archivist and the Voices of Axbridge Group to play to members of the public some samples of the recordings made as part of the archives of the town. The box will be mainly kept in the Museum in the ground floor shop area and initially will have recordings of the recollections of Axbridge Mayors.

#### AXBRIDGE PAGEANT

The pageant organising committee was renamed at a recent AGM to "Axbridge Pageant Association". This will ensure that the costumes will be safely stored and that fund-raising events may continue be held. John Kendall was elected Chairman, Peter Harding Deputy Chairman, Dave Peakall Treasurer and Pauline Ham secretary.

Pageant 2010 was able to make donations to Axbridge Museum, Friends of Axbridge Church and the Town Trust in recognition of those groups having made premises available during the run up to the pageant.

#### STREET PARTIES

Members were told that a street party for the Royal Wedding is jointly being organised by the PTA and the Sports and Social Committee. This will take place on the school grounds - details will follow.

#### COMPTON BISHOP PARISH COUNCIL

Compton Bishop Parish Council had written

to the council asking what measures it had taken, or intended to take, to ensure that the town, designated as a Key Rural Settlement by SDC, remained accessible to Cross and Compton Bishop residents during period of ice and snow. Food-shops, pharmacy and medical centre had been inaccessible to many from outside the town during the winter period.

#### EMERGENCY PLANNING - A STATEMENT

In these times of government cutbacks and restrictions the onus may fall on occasions to communities to plan and assist themselves in cases of emergency. The Town Council has been actively preparing an Emergency Contingency Plan to be used in such dire circumstances that the Emergency Services would be initially overwhelmed and would in the first instant require local assistance. It is not intended to replace those services merely to initially assist.

To that end Emergency Rest Centres have been identified should the need occur to house and feed people on a short term basis. (as occurred recently with the flooding in various areas in the UK). The purpose of this statement is to ask people with any special skills / tools / equipment that you may think could be usefully listed on the plan to contact Cllr Laken with your details. It must be stressed that these details would only be available to authorised people and would only be used in the case of the activation of the Emergency Plan.

**Contact: Councillor Ian Laken on [laken1393@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:laken1393@hotmail.co.uk)**

#### AXBRIDGE TOWN CAR PARK

The Axbridge Town car park in Meadow Street comes under the control of the Town Council from **1st May** and then it will be free to park, subject to the advertised regulations

**Tessa Munt MP - Constituency Surgery Friday 1st April 2011, 11:30 - 12:30 - The Lamb Inn. Tessa welcomes constituency members.**

**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**