

OYEZ!
JULY
News from your Town
Council



Congratulations!

The Town Clerk was congratulated for achieving a distinction in the current level of her Community Engagement and Governance Course (Certificate of Higher Education) and will now continue to the Foundation Degree. She was also awarded the AON prize for achieving the highest performance on the course at her level, which will be presented to her in November. The Town Council also passed the External Audit with no comments.

Notice Boards

The provision of a community notice board by the telephone box in The Square will be raised with the Chamber of Commerce and considered by the Town Trust. The Town Council supported the provision of a community notice board in principle, and the idea of a notice board in Axbridge Town Car Park (to include a map and local advertising) if the project has the support of the Chamber of Commerce. The Town Council would be willing to submit the relevant planning applications, if supported by the other organisations.

Quarry Liaison

Several complaints have been received from residents about increased noise and vibration during blasts. Although the quarry has been monitoring the blasts and operating within their usual parameters, residents remain concerned that damage is being done to their properties. The increased noise and vibration is due to blasting being resumed on the South face of the quarry which is on a fault line that dips down towards Cheddar Wood and Cheddar Road. Residents who are concerned are asked to contact the Town Council.

Axbridge Town Car Park

It was resolved that permits will only be issued for short term events, where an exception to the regulations is required, at the Council's discretion. Permits will not be issued to residents wishing to, for example, over stay the 48 hour restriction and only businesses which had a Sedgemoor District Council permit and wished for it to continue will be issued with a permit.

Residents are reminded that no vehicle may remain in the Car Park for more than 48 hours, and caravans and commercial vehicles are not permitted. The Town Council will take action to enforce the Car Park regulations as necessary.

Listed Buildings

The Planning Committee are to investigate whether other buildings in the Town may be worthy of Listed Building status.

Localism Bill

The bill has completed its course through the Commons and it is currently being considered by the Lords. Assent is expected October/November 2011. A plain English version of the bill can be found at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publication/localgovernment/localismplainenglishguide>

Town Maintenance Contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor has worked 17 hours in various parts of the Town. This month work is to be done on the path between Chestnut Avenue and Jubilee Road, as well as to the gravelled area outside the Church Rooms.

Mendip Community Transport Needs You!

MCT is looking for volunteer drivers, to transport elderly, frail and disadvantaged people to medical appointments at a variety of Hospitals. If you have time spare, own your own car, and would like to do something worthwhile, then please contact Mike Forbes or Mike Curtis on 01749 330100 for further information and an application form.

Old Station Building

A resident attended the meeting to express support for a reduction of the speed limit on the bypass to assist in the provision of an access to the building (which is used by youth groups). Lack of access from the bypass is deterring local groups from signing up to use the building. The Highways Advisory Group is to re-address the issue of the speed limit.

Facilities Group

A Facilities Group has been set up to investigate the provision of facilities within and for the Town including council offices for use by the Clerk, and the public convenience facility. The remit for this Group will be agreed shortly.

Museum Trust

The level of income received by the Museum Trust is currently falling below the level estimated in the current financial plan. This could be due to a lack of visitor numbers or the effect of the introduction of the entry fee. However it could yet recover, and could also be counteracted by reductions in other costs such as insurance.

Church Report

Axbridge Methodist Church is looking for musical assistance for their morning service. If you can help, please contact Rev Carol Chaplin on 01934 852897. The Churches of the Cheddar Valley are looking to appoint a Christian School Worker for the area, to communicate the Gospel appropriately.

Town Trust

The Town Trust has produced their draft business plan for the next 5 years. A sound system, hearing loop, and acoustic panels have been included in the plan, as well as essential maintenance and improvements to the kitchen facilities.

Allotments

The allotment plots are regularly inspected. Following concerns about non-cultivation of allotments, several tenants have been contacted and informed that they were in breach of their agreements to keep their

plots "substantially cultivated". Remedial work has been now carried out on most of the offending plots. Concern was also expressed at the state of the Forest Garden area of the allotment site and those tenants will be contacted as appropriate.

Furlong Fun Day

The Sports and Social Furlong Fun Day was a great success. The event should have made a small profit which will be passed on to local organisations.

County Council

County Councillor Mrs Hill informed the council that it is likely that substantial savings of around 7% each year will need to be made over the next two financial years, at both District and County level. Of the £25 million affected by the Icelandic Bank incident around £6 million has so far been recovered, and more is expected although how much remains to be seen.

Emergency Plan

The revised Emergency Plan was approved, and will be shared with neighbouring parishes. 10 Orange Tabards will be purchased as part of the plan.

Mendip Hills AONB Dry Stone Walling

Would you like to learn how to do dry stone walling or just gain more walling experience, and help restore one of the many walls in the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)? 4 dry stone walling training tasks will be running 10.00am- 3.00pm on 24th & 31st August, 3rd & 7th September. To book a place or for further information contact Owen Jones on 01761 462338 or 07770 646161 or mail mendipvolunteers@gmail.com.

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 vbrice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk

www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk