

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



**Civic Service and
Community Awards**

Do you know someone who deserves an award? If you know a local hero who you think has done a lot for Axbridge, either as a member of a club or group, or as an individual, let us know! You could nominate them to receive an Axbridge Civic Award in recognition of their contribution.

The way to make nominations is by picking up a Nomination Form from the Post Office, the Chemist's or the Surgery and telling us a bit about what the person you want to nominate has done for Axbridge. You can also get a form from the website. If you want to make more than one nomination, that's fine: please use a separate form for each person you tell us about.

The awards will be presented at the Celebration of Axbridge Community Service on Sunday 26th February 2012, and you will need to get your nominations in by the end of the year. Sadly, although the awards will be priceless, there won't be any money involved – just a big thank-you from Axbridge!

If you have any questions or need any help getting or filling in the form, just call Vicky Brice, the Town Clerk, on 07884 264033 or get in touch with a Town Councillor

Town Design Statement

Work on the Town Design Statement continues. A questionnaire for residents is going out with this edition of Oyez, and a survey will also be carried out at the Farmers' Market. A draft statement should be ready for January 2012 with a view to publication in March 2012. Any volunteers to help work on this project are welcome, and if you would like to get involved, please contact Janet on Janhomewood@yahoo.co.uk.

Severe Cold Weather plan

After a great deal of work by the Town Council after the severe cold weather earlier this year, Somerset County Council (SCC) has added the bus route through Axbridge to Somerset's Pre Salting Network. In addition an extra salt bin will be purchased and located at the bottom of Chestnut Avenue, which will be filled by SCC. A stock of grit sufficient to treat key points in the road infrastructure will be stored by the Lengthsman, and will be available to residents on request.

Town Hall Manager

Sarah Emery, the Town Hall manager, has now moved from the Grey House, The Square, Axbridge. Sarah still remains the Town Hall manager and you can contact Sarah with any Town Hall enquiries on 01934 743163 / 07748 561114 (mobile) or by email: sarah@emerybs26.fsnet.co.uk. The Town Trust would like to thank all residents for their continued support of the Town Hall.

Finances

The first draft of the 2012/13 budget was considered, and a final version, taking into account the views of the council and any further suggestions, will be considered at the November meeting. It was agreed to pay the second half of the annual grant (£3640) towards the running of the Town Hall, as budgeted. A small grant towards the planters will be considered for the 2012/2013 budget.

Bristol Water

Information has been received from Bristol Water outlining major water main pipe works, as detailed on their website at <http://www.bristolwater.co.uk/news/mainNews.asp?newsID=920>, which are scheduled to start on 30th October 2011. Bristol Water has offered to attend the council meeting on 21st November 2011. Members had a number of concerns/queries which needed to be addressed in the meantime and these have been raised with Bristol Water.

Anti-social behavior

There has been an increasing issue with anti-social behavior on the Furlong, which is seriously affecting neighbouring residents. The Town Council is working with the Police to investigate ways of dealing with anti-social behavior throughout the Town, and will also be seeking advice from Sedgemoor District Council on the process for having a bylaw to make the Furlong a No Alcohol Zone and to prohibit the use of the Furlong between dusk and dawn (other than for authorised events). The gate to the Furlong Car Park will also be locked at night. Damage caused to the Changing Rooms after the Carnival is to be repaired shortly. Any residents being affected by such behavior are asked to contact the Town Clerk.

Outdoor Gym

The RLT3 grant application for the Outdoor Gym equipment on the Furlong has been submitted. There will be 3 pieces of equipment, which are a snowboarder, stepper and runner. The full cost including fitting, and instruction signs etc. is now £5,963.50 net. 80% of this will be met by the RLT3 fund, with grant funding for the remaining cost being sought from local organisations. The application is due to be determined by SCC in January 2012.

Town Maintenance Contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor worked 17.5 hours in September, 6 hours on the Furlong, 7 hours pointing the Church Steps, 1 hour in the car park, 2.5 hours on Starr's Close, and 1 hour in the cemetery. The hedges at the cemetery have been trimmed and the tarmac area is now to be tidied up.

Youth Shelter

The Youth Shelter replacement perspex should be done soon, and the previously replaced perspex is toughened and currently withstanding the youths who are trying really hard to break it. Anti-vandal paint will be put on the roof soon and warnings not to climb will be stenciled on the shelter. The concrete base will be done when time and weather permit.

School Governor's report

The governors are currently going through the initial stages of head teacher recruitment with a timescale to complete by the end of the year. The infant and junior toilets have been refurbished and the entrance and offices repainted. The school has also been accredited as a Somerset Centre for Innovation and Research (SCIR), which recognizes the school's commitment to continuing professional development, as well as their achievements in innovative and creative planning, teaching, and learning over a number of years. The school will be singing around the tree in the Square at 6.00pm on Monday 12th December.

Allotments

Due to the non-cultivation of several plots, two tenants have had their allotment tenancy agreements terminated, and a final letter will be being sent to the Community Allotment Association. Allotments must be properly cultivated and maintained, which can be time-consuming. At present there is no waiting list for allotments, so any residents who are seriously interested in applying for an allotment tenancy should contact the Town Clerk.

Axbridge & District Museum Trust

The tourism sector is being seriously affected by the current economic climate and visitor numbers for this year were down 65%, and even though non grant-related income is up, there will be an overall financial shortfall. The museum is looking for a volunteer Outreach Trustee and someone to run the Friends of the Museum marketing. Anyone who is interested should contact Robin Goodfellow on 01934 732874.

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