

OYEZ!
JULY 2012
News from your Town Council



District Council Report

District Councillor Mrs Scott referred to the need to reduce the budget and the likelihood of further devolving services to a local level. Members expressed concern at the implications for the Town Council precept, which would already be affected by the council tax base reduction proposals. Mrs Scott is to advise Sedgemoor District Council that the Town Council need to know the actual effect of the tax base reduction on Axbridge, and information on the devolution of services, prior to its pre budget meeting in September. The reduction in council tax base would result in an increase in precept simply to maintain existing services and projects.

Axbridge First School

The Governors continue to meet to work towards Academy Status. As part of the academy process the school is looking for a responsible financial officer. This is a voluntary position as an external independent auditor. Anyone interested should contact the school office in the first instance on 01934 732391.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Town Council will be establishing a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. The Working Group will consider and recommend a way forward in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan – including preparing a remit, appointing a Chairman, attending training, reading literature and guidance, discussing public involvement, consultation and publicity. It is anticipated that the actual production of the plan, with full community involvement, would take place at a later stage and with a different/wider membership.

Blackberry Carnival

This year's Blackberry Carnival will take place on Saturday 22nd September, and the theme is Myths, Legends and Fairy tales. The usual road closures will be in place. For more information please contact Robin Mace on 01934 734603.

Axbridge Playmates

Axbridge Playmates Playgroup (registered charity) based in the Methodist Chapel Hall, West Street, Axbridge, now have spaces available for children aged 2 years up to pre-school.

If you are interested in finding out more about them or would like to arrange a visit to the Playgroup before making up your mind, then please telephone Nadine (Manager) 07901983460 on a Monday, Wednesday or Thursday morning.

Youth Centre

Somerset County Council have agreed to pass the Station Road building to the Sea Cadets but it will be leased for an interim period (up to two years) whilst the transfer arrangements take place. The building will be available for use by other organisations in the town. It is possible that the Duke of Edinburgh scheme may continue to run from there.

Leisure and Recreation

Concern has been expressed at the level of dog mess within the school playing field, which is meant to be a dog ban area. This matter will be discussed with the school after the holiday period.



Town Maintenance Contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor had worked 7.5 hours – 5 hours on the furlong, 1 hour in Starr's Close and 1.5 hours outside Racurium Lodge, Townsend. He had also been asked to clear a couple of footpaths. Consideration is to be given to cutting back growth on the hedge/wall by St Johns flats which backed onto Axbridge Town Car Park, this will be raised with the Town Maintenance Contractor.

Somerset Routes

Somerset Routes is a unique map and guide which highlights over 100 of the counties best heritage sites to visit. It allows members of the public to search for heritage sites either via the "tube map" or by certain criteria such as historic period or collection type. Axbridge District Museum, or King John's Hunting Lodge, is on the Battle Line. Why not visit the website at www.somersetroutes.co.uk and see the other local attractions featured?

Would you like to be Town Bailiff?

Following the recent resignation of the Sergeant at Mace, it was agreed to promote Mr Cottis, the current Town Bailiff, to the post. The position of Town Bailiff is therefore vacant. Anyone who is interested in taking on this ceremonial role should apply to the Town Clerk by 24th August. Applications should include your name, address and what qualities you would bring to the role. A form is available on request and also from the Town Council website.

Harvest Home

This year's Harvest Home Lunch will be on Sunday 2nd September, in the Town Hall, and the cost remains at £12.50 per ticket. Tickets are limited to 100 and are available from the Chemists, or please contact Liz Scott at Moorland Street Farm or Cathy Parsons at the Party Shop.

Kerbside Collections

Three more materials can now be included in Somerset householders' weekly kerbside recycling.

Aerosols, textiles and paper kitchen towel have been added to the 10 materials already taken every week: food waste, paper, card, glass bottles and jars, food and drink cans, plastic bottles, aluminium foil, clothes, shoes and car batteries.

It is the latest advance in the Sort It Plus kerbside service, which went county-wide from late last year, helping take Somerset's recycling levels to around 51%, and mirrors progress at recycling sites, where materials taken now include cooking oil for recycling to generate electricity.

As with all materials in the kerbside collection, there are some essential Dos and Don'ts:

Aerosols go out in the same box with food and drink cans. Use up all contents and never squash or pierce them. It helps to discard tops and nozzles into the refuse. All aerosols are accepted but not gas canisters, such as those used in home fizzy drinks machines or containing camping gas.

Textiles, such as towels, sheets, blankets, curtains and covers, are accepted as well as clothes. They should be put out in plastic bags (not black sacks) to keep them dry and labelled: Textiles. Not accepted at the kerbside are stuffed items, such as duvets, pillows and quilts.

Kitchen towel made of paper can be recycled with food waste. Kitchen towel will be composted with food waste and, from next year, turned into electricity by Somerset's new anaerobic digester.

Aerosols and textiles can also be taken for recycling to all recycling sites; food waste is not

accepted at recycling sites except for disposal. Householders seeking more advice about kerbside collections should contact their district council customer services or visit the website at <http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/>.

Chamber of Commerce

Mr M Sartain had been elected Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, with Mrs S Albone as Vice-Chairman. A Race Night will be held on Saturday 16th February 2013 to raise funds for the Showcase. It is likely that the Showcase will take place over the August 2013 bank holiday weekend.

Axbridge Surgery

Axbridge and Wedmore Patient Newsletters are available at the Surgery. Following a patient survey, the practice now offers an extended opening hours service. These appointments are not for emergencies or to see a nurse, they are dedicated to those patients that find it difficult to attend during normal surgery hours. These will be booked via reception during normal practice hours. If you have an emergency, you will still need to contact the out of hours service for assistance. The extended opening times are:

- Wednesday 18.30—20.00 at Axbridge Surgery (alternate weeks)
- Thursday 18.30—20.00 at Axbridge Surgery (alternate weeks)
- Thursday 07.00—08.00 at Wedmore Surgery (once a month)
- Wednesday 07.00—08.00 at Wedmore Surgery (once a month)
- Saturday 08.00—09.30 at Wedmore Surgery (alternate weeks)

During Extended Opening Hours the front door will be locked. Please ring the video door bell for access. Access will only be granted to patients with pre booked appointments. The surgery telephones will not be manned during Extended Opening Hours

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