

OYEZ!

SEPTEMBER 2012

News from your Town Council



Town Councillor Vacancy

Sedgemoor District Council has confirmed that there has been no request for an election and that the Town Council can now proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option. The closing date for application forms is Monday 8th October, with the vacancy being filled by co-option at the 15th October Town Council meeting. Information on eligibility, the role of the Town Council and its schedule of meetings may be obtained from the Clerk. Anyone interested in applying should contact the Town Clerk for an application form and further details (also available on the website www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk).

Leisure & Recreation

A further response was awaited from GB Sport and Leisure regarding the unsatisfactory Outdoor Gym Equipment and also the repairs to the climbing frame equipment and slide. The Cricket Club has been asked to remove the nets and the bark around the play area equipment may need topping up shortly. Plans to extend the car park are being discussed with a view to obtaining quotes for the work. The damaged swing had been replaced and the fence repaired.

Axbridge Town Car Park

The Highways Group has recommended that before considering any changes to the regulations for Axbridge Car Park that the existing regulations should remain for a period to see what effect enforcement had on the use of the car park. The Clerk has written to the Somerset County Council Parking Services Manager making a formal request for the Town Council to enter into negotiations with the company employed by Somerset County Council to carry out enforcement in the car park in Axbridge.

Sports and Social

This year's Father Christmas in the Square night will be on Saturday 22nd December. The Christmas trees will be going up on the first Sunday of December as usual, and the application for the required road closure will be going in shortly.

Property Marking

PC Wills reported on local crime matters, including local burglaries. He urged local residents to mark property and to keep identifying details and receipts in order to assist with the recovery of stolen goods. If you can't prove ownership, even if your stolen goods are recovered, the chances of getting them back are slim.

Meadow Street

County Councillor Dawn Hill advised that the long awaited improvement works to Meadow Street will be carried out during November.

Farmers' Market

The 10th Anniversary market was a great success. The market has also been nominated for Best Farmers' Market in Somerset. Details of all the local Farmers' markets can be found at the website www.somersetfarmersmarkets.co.uk.



Neighbourhood Plan

Axbridge Town Council is seeking agreement from Sedgemoor District Council to formulate a Neighbourhood Plan. This plan will cover the area of Axbridge Parish, which is a key rural settlement. It will be a comprehensive plan for our parish and set out the priorities for the next 20 years, giving us as a community greater control over what development happens where. It will also cover how land is used and services provided. It will not be just restricted to building projects but based on key economic, social and environmental issues.

The Town Council is required to lead this project. However for the plan to be comprehensive it is vital that as many views and opinions of residents be taken into consideration. Interested groups and individuals who want to be more involved in the later stages of planning and writing of the plan will be welcomed – this is not purely a Council document.

We are required to consult as widely as possible. To that end a number of information events will be staged both in the Town hall and on a smaller level on the Council stall at Farmer's markets. These events will be publicised in advance – the intention being to inform as many people as possible of the process, how it works, what it is hoping to achieve and how to get involved. Above all, the Council needs to know your thoughts and ideas.

The plan will not happen overnight and will take a lot of effort and hard work but the benefits to the community should be long lasting and worthwhile.



Town Bailiff

Mrs Maggie Tur has been appointed as Town Bailiff.

Axbridge Guides

There are currently 36 guides and more keen to join when places become available! Axbridge Brownies would welcome adult helpers and more Guiders are needed within the Axbridge District. If you are interested in becoming an adult helper, or even a Guider, please contact Wendy Wall on 01934 712870.

Sea Cadets

The transfer of the Old Station Yard to the Sea Cadets is still being held up by Somerset County Council, but it is hoped that this will be progressed shortly. There will be a Trafalgar Night Dinner, complete with guest speaker, on Saturday 27th October to raise funds for the Sea Cadets, and tickets will be available shortly.

Civic Service 2013

The next Civic Service will be on Sunday 24th February at 3:00pm at St John the Baptist Church. Nomination papers will be going out with this September Oyez and the awards will be considered at the December Personnel & Protocol Committee meeting. If you feel a member of the community has made a valuable contribution to the Town, and deserves this recognition, please make a nomination by 26th November 2012.

Oyez

There will be a small “do” to thank all volunteers who help with the distribution of Oyez, on Monday 29th October, at 7:30pm, in the Council Chambers.

Town Maintenance Contractor Report

The Town Maintenance Contractor had worked 12.5 hours, which had covered litter picking and maintenance work in the Furlong, Car park and Starrs Close and repair of the bench at Townsend. The contractor will be asked to remove the shrub from the war memorial garden, as the garden is not a suitable site for it.

Axbridge Youth Theatre

The Young ACT group will be putting on a production of “Minotaur” on the 7th and 8th of December. This will be the largest production the group has put on to date and promises to be a great show.

Axbridge First School

Axbridge First School was successful in their planned Academy conversion and are very excited about the opportunities this brings.

Chamber of Commerce

The next Network Evening will be on Tuesday 30th October. At their next meeting the Chamber will be looking into the new noticeboards for the Square and Axbridge Town Car Park as well as considering the Town’s Fairtrade status.

Grants

The Town Council made the following grants to organisations providing local services and support to residents

Organisation	Donation 2012/13
Cheddar Valley Railway Walk	£50
Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance	£150
Life Education Wessex	£50
Mendip Community Transport	£50
Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau	£50
Somerset Age UK (previously Age Concern)	£50

Overgrown verges and churchyard

Concerns over the state of verges and the churchyard had been raised with the County and District Councillors.

Blackberry Carnival

This year’s “Myths and Legends” Carnival was a great success. Thanks to the surprisingly good weather there was a great turnout of both floats and spectators.



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