

OYEZ!

OCTOBER 2012

News from your Town Council



Meadow Street and Old Church Road

A site meeting had been held between representatives from Somerset Highways, from the Axbridge Community Partnership and from the Town Council to confirm the details of the improvement works. The paving blocks will be extended from the Square to the cul-de-sac in Old Church Road using the same colour blocks (red) as the original blocks. Kerbing on the north side is to be replaced and the footpath reinstated in front of the new development. The kerbing on south side will be partly replaced and partly removed. The corner opposite Axbridge Town Car Park will be re-aligned to make it less severe. Old Church Road and Houlgate Way will be closed on 5th November for 3 weeks and then on 28 November 2012 to enable these works to take place.

Anti-social behaviour

Following concerns expressed by local residents, the Police were keen to point out that any complains or reports about anti-social behaviour are not logged as related to your property in any way and would not therefore affect the sale of that property in the future.

Sea Cadets

There will be a Trafalgar Night Dinner, complete with guest speaker, on Saturday 27th October to raise funds for the Sea Cadets in the Town Hall, and tickets (£23.50) are now available.

Civic Service 2013

The next Civic Service will be on Sunday 24th February at 3:00pm at St John the Baptist Church. Nomination papers are still available (from the Post office, Chemist, Town Council website and Town Clerk) 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.

Church Report

Paul Passey, reporting on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, informed the Town Council that the Church had been successful in their application to Viridor for funding to help with the costs for the new boiler, raising £12,000 towards the cost. There is still a shortfall of around £5,000 which the Church will be continuing to raise funds for. The Church would like to express their gratitude to Viridor.

Leisure & Recreation

The Group is due to meet shortly to discuss several issues including the continual and worsening problems with dog fouling. In view of the aggressive response from some dog owners, the Changing Rooms Manager will be recommended not to approach owners allowing their dog to foul, but to log the incident and report it to the Chairman of the Group in the first instance. The football clubs will be erecting banners to draw attention to the problem – as dog mess continues to be an issue on the football pitches. The school is looking at securing the gate into its field and it may be that the children could get involved in a campaign to highlight the issue of dog fouling.



Sainsbury's Supermarket application

Axbridge Town Council objected to this application in Cheddar on the ground of the extra traffic generation and road safety issues that would arise from this at several key junctions:

1. Junction at the top of Upper New Road (where it joins Axbridge Road and Shipham Road (the magic roundabout), near to the petrol station which would increase due to traffic accessing the store from the direction of Axbridge, Shipham, Winscombe and surrounding villages;
2. Junction of Upper New Road and Lower New Road (near Sharpham Road) – both in terms of the junction itself and that access is over an old railway bridge with no pedestrian access;
3. Junction of Station Road and Wideatts Road, by the war memorial, exacerbated by the fact that there is residential parking all along Station Road;
4. The sharp left turning along Lower New Road known as Hythe Bow; and
5. Through Cheddar, particularly the junction of Church Street and Draycott Road which is accessed via a narrow bridge over the river with no pedestrian access which would be exacerbated by traffic accessing the store from the direction of Draycott and surrounding villages.

Somerset Sight

The mobile Somerset Sight resource unit will be in Axbridge on 28th November (10.30am – 3.30pm) – to be sited at the Furlong Car Park.

Code of Conduct

The Town Council agreed to continue with the Code of Conduct adopted in July 2012.

New Town Councillor

There were three applications received from residents wishing to be co-opted onto the Town Council. There was one vacancy. Each candidate was proposed and seconded and members voted for their preferred candidate, in accordance with recommended practice and Standing Orders. A majority was obtained on the first vote and it was resolved that Mrs Margaret Crawford be co-opted onto the Town Council.



Town Maintenance Contractor Report

The Town Maintenance Contractor has worked 16.5 hours this month, which included removal of trees at the Cemetery and litter picking and maintenance work in the Furlong, Car Park, Townsend and Starrs Close.

Axbridge Active Living

The Clerk updated members on the Axbridge Active Living project which would provide a social gathering for older residents of Axbridge, very much like the very popular Shipham Active Living program. It is intended that the group will meet fortnightly, launching on Wednesday 16th January 2013, from 2.00pm until 4.00pm in the Town Hall and will include tea/coffee/cake and an activity. Entertainment has been booked for the first afternoon. An informal meeting (over coffee!) to help get the project up and running will be held in the Almshouse on Thursday 15th November at 3.00pm and any interested volunteers are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!

OYEZ

Councillor Mrs Trotman is standing down as editor and distributor of Oyez due to work commitments. Members thanked Councillor Mrs Trotman for all her work as Oyez editor.

Councillor Kendall will be the editor of OYEZ and arrange for its distribution from November 2012. 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.

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. The application document and map is on the town hall notice board and available via the Town Council website and any comments on the application or area must be submitted to Sedgemoor District Council by 26th November 2012.

A Neighbourhood Plan 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.

Axbridge & District Museum Trust

Following Sedgemoor District Council's withdrawal of grants, the future of the museum in King John's Hunting Lodge is under real threat. The Museum is an important asset of the town, attracting visitors and helping to generate income for other businesses. In order to try and provide financial security, a Friends of Axbridge Museum scheme has been launched. For an annual donation of £10 (individual) or £15 (family), Friends get unlimited entry to the Museum for themselves and a companion and free entry to two talks a year. In addition there is a children's treasure hunt, with a prize for those with family membership.

Anyone interested in becoming a Friend of the Museum can contact Alan Wells on 01934 733779.

The next talk, entitled "Axbridge divided – Why the Rev Gould honestly earned two black eyes" is scheduled for November 13th at 7.30pm in the Skittle Alley at the Lamb.

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