



# OYEZ!

November 2012

News from your Town Council

## Dogs

Despite some improvement on the Furlong, dog mess continues to be a serious problem in Axbridge. The football clubs have erected banners to remind dog owners of their legal responsibility in this matter, and the council is hoping to make stickers available to residents to place on wheelie bins for the same purpose.

If anyone who is offended by dog fouling has any information about regular offenders they can report this to the Furlong manager, to Councillor Mrs Ham (732062) or the Town Clerk in complete confidence. This information will help the dog warden to target offenders.

The persistent failure of some dog owners to accept their responsibility in the matter is forcing the council to consider making Dog Control Orders and to prosecute offenders.

## Dog chipping

The dog warden service is offering free micro-chipping of dogs to council tenants, and a reduced price to other dog owners. Phone 01278-435210 if you are interested. They come to you to do this.

## Hedgehog football

Disturbing reports have been received of children, on the Furlong and elsewhere, playing football using live hedgehogs as the ball. Parents are asked to make sure that their children have respect for living creatures and understand that this is unacceptable mistreatment and cruelty.

## Satellite food bank

A Food Bank collecting point is coming to Axbridge. Donations will cover Axbridge and surrounding villages.

The aim is to support local people in crisis with quick access to emergency food. From Saturday December 1st the new collection point will be outside the George House in Axbridge Square on Farmers' Market days. Donations will be sorted and packed at the Highbridge Food Bank, and returned to be held in Axbridge for local use. If you would like to know more, or to volunteer to help phone John or Sue Albone on 01934-732573 or come and meet them at the stall on December 1st.

Please ensure that donations are not approaching their sell-by date.

## Speed indicator device

The Council has requested that the speed indicator device located periodically in Cheddar Road should also be used on the 40 mph section of the by-pass as a reminder to drivers, and to provide information on the extent of speeding there.

Over a recent four day period in Cheddar Road (a 30 mph zone) the device recorded the following results:

- most of drivers (72%) exceeded 30mph
- most drivers were doing under 37mph
- 206 drivers were going between 40 and 50mph
- 9 drivers were going over 50mph

## Cheddar Road street lighting

Improved street lighting in Cheddar Road is being considered. The proposal is for 3 new lamps:

- A new street lamp and column on Jubilee Road on the east side of Chestnut Avenue
- A new lamp on an existing pole on Cheddar Road, on the east side of Hippisley Drive
- A new lamp on an existing pole half way between Hippisley Drive and Farthing Combe

*Those directly affected will be consulted. If anyone else has observations to make, please contact the Town Clerk as soon as possible.*

## Meadow Street upgrade

The upgrade of Meadow Street and the re-surfacing of the much pot-holed section of Old Church Road leading to it have been completed. The aim of the scheme was to improve the walkway between the Square and car park, and to extend the Square parking restrictions to Meadow Street, getting rid of yellow lines.

The bricks were paid for by a grant from our County Councillor, and the work in Old Church road was part of routine resurfacing, so there was no cost to the Town Council. The colour of the bricks was the best available.



## Severe weather issues

### Refuse & re-cycling collections

In case of disruption by severe weather up to date details as to when refuse/recycling will be collected is posted on the website [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk) or can be followed on twitter @somersetwaste.

### Roads

Any severe weather related issues relating to roads can be reported via Somerset County Council's call centre on 0845 345 9155.

The Town Council has a limited supply of grit which it can distribute to residents in severe weather. This is for use on public roads and pavements only (*not private drives!*) Contact the Town Clerk on 07884 264033 if required

## Mendip Community Transport

Mendip Community Transport can offer the following transport services:

**2 Minibuses in relation to their Special Needs Contracts** - (ie providing competitive transport for use by community groups in Sedgemoor) Telephone 01749 330100

**Slinky bus** - which can be booked 14 days in advance (15 days for medical appointments) Telephone 01749 331234

**Hospital cars** - for medical appointments - Telephone either of the above numbers to book.

## Reservoir update

Bristol Water has sent all households a leaflet about this project, and set up a dedicated website for news and progress on the proposal for a new Cheddar Reservoir. The web address is:

<http://cheddar-reservoir-two.co.uk/>

## Hinkley-Avonmouth pylon line

The proposed route for the power line from the new Hinkley Point power station has been announced. The line is to go underground through the Mendips, but uses pylons across the Levels. The route roughly follows the existing line which will be removed, but will have fewer but taller pylons. Details can be found on:

[www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk](http://www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk)

There is to be a consultation period on these plans, which ends on 18 December 2012. Observations can be made through the website.

## Water Mains Works

The project to replace the Axbridge section of a major water main continues, following a total of five months of delays due to the unseasonably wet Spring/Summer, a need to change working methods after discovering naturally-occurring hydrogen sulphide in the peat, and a technical issue, meaning the contractors had to replace elements on all the pipe's rhyne crossings. Work was recently scheduled to be completed in mid December, but this now seems unlikely. Once the latest works are completed, the contractors will demobilize the site compound and undertake reinstatement work (including top soil, land drains and chambers) next year. The delay to re-seeding will give the ground time to dry out properly.

Bristol Water stresses that the Axbridge work has nothing to do with its proposals for a second Cheddar Reservoir.

## Annual report

The Town Council's annual report has been approved by the council. A summary will be distributed with the next edition of Oyez! and the full report will be available on the Council's website.

## Town Maintenance Contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor worked 11 hours this month. This included litter removal and strimming in the Furlong and Town Car Park, removing a tree stump in the war memorial garden and work in Starrs Close.

## Axbridge Playmates

Axbridge Playmates playgroup are looking for new committee members! Are you interested in the local community? Can you spare one evening a month to attend meetings, and feel you have some life experience that you can share with some of our small group? You do not have to have any previous links to the playgroup. The main role of the committee is to raise funds to keep our wonderful playgroup running. If you would like to know more or might be interested in joining, please call Lorna Adams on 07749 947 570.

## Axbridge Active Living

This project to provide a facility for older residents is to go ahead. It will begin on Wednesday 16th January from 2-4pm in the Town Hall, with entertainment from The Grazels with their Somerset stories and rhymes. Sessions will include tea/coffee and cake together with an activity. The organisers would like to ask for donations of china cups, saucers and teaplates - please contact the Town Clerk if you can help with this, or would like to volunteer to assist. The group of people interested in volunteering is meeting on Tues 18 Dec at 2pm in the Almshouse.

## Young ACT

The Young ACT production of *Minotaur* announced earlier has had to be postponed - watch out for a new date which is likely to be in late January or early February.

## Santa in The Square

The traditional Santa in the Square evening will take place on Saturday 22nd December from 5-9pm.

Residents are invited to attend Town Council meetings to raise issues or just to listen. Matters may be brought to the Council's attention via the Town Clerk.

Meetings are normally held in the Town Hall on the 3rd Monday each month at 7.30 pm, but the December meeting this year will be on Monday 10th.

The Town Clerk, Mrs Vicky Brice can be contacted by phone or e-mail:

Phone: (07884 264033)

e-mail ([vbrice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk](mailto:vbrice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk))

The Town Council's website is at:

[www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk](http://www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk)