



OYEZ!

February 2013

News from your Town Council

Free insulation as *Warm Streets* returns

The Warm Streets scheme is being re-launched. Somerset residents aged over 60, or in receipt of benefits can potentially get both cavity wall and loft insulation installed for free (subject to survey). This council-supported project aims to tackle the problem of cold, damp homes in Somerset, and to help qualifying residents cut their fuel bills.

All installations need to be completed by the end of March 2013, so spread the word quickly if you know somebody who would benefit.

Phillip Morris, the Warm Streets Project Manager, says: "This is a fantastic offer which will not only improve your home, making it more comfortable, but will also reduce your fuel bills. Having your home insulated can save you hundreds of pounds, and there's never been a better time to get this work done."

Warm Streets can also help residents find out about various other ways to lower their heating and electricity bills with free and impartial energy saving advice.

Warm Streets is funded by the Department for Energy and Climate Change's fuel poverty fund, and delivered by insulation contractor Domestic and General Insulation Ltd. Warm Streets has been a long-running project in various forms over several years, and we're very pleased to have funding to continue this valuable service.

For further information and to make an application to Warm Streets, call the Home Energy Team on 0800 082 2234 or email home.energy@cse.org.uk

Proposal for a Fairtrade café

There is a proposal to start a community Fairtrade café in the Church Rooms this spring, once a week on Wednesday or Friday mornings (depending on volunteers) to provide a meeting point for local members of the community. No real frills, just a simple service offering Fairtrade beverages, biscuits and maybe home made cake.

Options to purchase Fairtrade products would be available for customers and also local businesses.

There will also be an additional Food Bank collection point on these mornings, supporting the existing Highbridge Food Bank centre, yet ensuring continued focus on the Cheddar Valley Churches progression towards it's own Food Bank status with ultimately it's own distribution point in Axbridge. The café would also provide the Food Bank voucher holders a place to sit and offer a cup of tea and support when collecting their much needed food boxes.

Of course this cafe cannot open without vital volunteers. A total of 20 willing helpers is all that is needed so that commitment individually is minimal. If you would like to know more or put your name forward please contact Sue Albone by emailing sue.albone@tiscali.co.uk or phoning her on 01934 732573

High Street salt bin

A new grit bin at the top of High Street was reported in the last edition. The council would like to thank the Harvest Home Committee for their efforts in fund-raising to enable this project.

Farmers' Market

The market manager has reported that the market is going well. There has been very little problem with parked cars, and he wishes to thank residents for moving cars out early on market days (the first Saturday of each month) so that the market can be set up without problems.

Flooding summit

The recent flooding has affected huge numbers of people and businesses in Somerset, and district and county councils feel it essential to review how the various agencies performed their roles, what went well and what could be improved. This consultation will be open to responses until 8th March 2013.

The review is being made jointly across the County to ensure the best use of resources for all the agencies and to enable Somerset to speak cohesively at national level and input effectively into any national reviews prompted by the recent floods.

It is important that the experiences and views of those affected by flooding are captured. It would be helpful if anyone who has some relevant experience or comments could pass these on using the form available at the website at:

www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/floodsummit

Comments will then be fed back to the councillors leading the review and any common issues can be identified.

Sea Cadets

The committee has now taken legal possession of the old railway station building and is now able to go ahead with planning for the establishment of an Axbridge Sea Cadets group. Watch out for developments.

Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly meeting will take place on Monday 4th March 2013 at 8.00pm in the Town Hall. This is an open meeting for the town, and all are welcome. Only those on the current electoral roll are eligible to vote on any proposal.

Road damage

The abnormal weather over the last few months has led to extensive damage to road surfaces. This problem extends across the whole county and consequently it will take time for all repairs to be carried out. The County council has access to additional funds which have been made available to help this process. It is hoped that it will be possible to re-open Cheddar Gorge very shortly.

Supermarket proposal

The planning application made by Sainsbury's to develop a supermarket at Steart Farm in Cheddar has been approved by Sedgemoor District Council subject to a number of conditions which are now under negotiation with the company, and approval on some points from Natural England.

Superfast broadband

The Connecting Devon and Somerset project is going ahead and will provide superfast broadband over 90% of Somerset. This should provide improved broadband in Axbridge, though the timescale is not yet clear.

Cheddar reservoir development

Bristol Water recently held an exhibition in the Town Hall showing details of the proposal for a second reservoir. Questionnaires available there asking for opinions are due to be returned by 28th February. If you missed the exhibition you can find information about the project at:

www.cheddar-reservoir-two.co.uk

Axbridge Town Council is lodging an objection to the access route proposed for the heavy flows of construction traffic, and is suggesting that there

should be a direct access from the A38 as was proposed when Axbridge was being considered as the second reservoir location.

Civic Awards ceremony

This year's Civic Awards ceremony filled the Church on Sunday 24th February. Awards were made to Martin Latham and Robin Goodfellow as thanks for their service to the community. In addition a Mayor's special award was made to Tom Adams in recognition of his bravery in saving the lives of two youngsters many years ago when they fell through ice on the reservoir. The awards were presented by the High Sheriff of Somerset the ceremony was followed by tea and cake in the Town Hall. Thanks to everyone who made this occasion such a success.

Town maintenance contractor

Over the last month the Lengthsman (town maintenance contractor) has carried out maintenance work and litter picking in Houlgate Way and Starrs Close, the Furlong, the Square, Church Steps and Back Lane and in the Town car park. He has also removed graffiti from road signs.

Dog fouling

The ongoing concern about dog-fouling around the town is illustrated this month by the fact that some owner allowed a dog to foul the childrens' play area.

Fair safety

The council referred some concerns about safety at the fair in the Square last September to the Town Trust which controls the Square. The Trust has passed these concerns onto the operator of the fair.

Old Church Road

The council has agreed that the section of Old Church Road between Meadow Street and the town car park should be improved when funds permit by replacing the grass strips on the south side with tarmac, and placing planters on the grass strip on the north side.

Public conveniences

The Town Council is taking over the public conveniences in Moorland Street from Sedgemoor District. The Town Council has advertised for interested parties to tender for a contract to open, lock and clean the toilets. The contract will run for a three year period beginning on the 1st May.

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 held in the Town Hall on the 3rd Monday each month at 7.30 pm.

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

**Phone: (07884 264033)
e-mail (vbrice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk)**

**The Town Council's website is at:
www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk**