



OYEZ!

April 2013

News from your Town Council

Fairtrade town

Axbridge's Fairtrade status, which had lapsed, has been renewed and we are now again a Fairtrade Town. The proposal to establish a Fairtrade Cafe is going ahead, and the cafe will open on Tuesday afternoons in the Church Rooms, beginning in the first week of June.

Axbridge Sea Cadets

Axbridge Sea Cadets held a successful Open Evening on 16th April, but if you are interested and missed it there will be a further one from 7.30 - 9.00 pm on 16th May in the old railway station. Refreshments will be available. The group will be opening to cadets on Tuesday 21st May - more details will be available at the Open Evening, when prospective cadets should register.



The Youth Bus

The Youth Bus run by the Somerset Rural Youth Project which has been in The Square on Wednesday evenings is being relocated to the Furlong. The bus is a 'health bus' - it is a drop-in centre for young people to call in and chat, ask advice, etc and just to socialise. It will be located on the Furlong car park from 6.30 - 8.00 pm for the next 7 Wednesdays.

Axbridge Fun Day

Axbridge Fun Day this year will be held on The Furlong on Saturday 13th July.



Dogs on The Furlong



Because it is a sports and play area dogs should always be kept under control, and owners are asked to keep dogs on a lead at all times on The Furlong. Signs have been placed in The Furlong as a reminder of this.

Speed indicator device

The speed indicator device periodically used to monitor traffic at the end of Cheddar Road is to continue to be used there, but will also be used at times to monitor the speed of eastbound traffic on the 40 mph section of the by-pass near St. Michael's Cheshire Home.

The Mayor Making ceremony

The annual Mayor-making this year will be on Monday 13th May at 7.30 for 8.00 pm in the Town Hall. This is a public meeting, although some seats will be reserved for guests. Cllr John Albone has been nominated to be the new Mayor and Cllr Peter Yusen has been nominated to be the Deputy Mayor. Councillors will vote on these appointments at the ceremony.



Cllr. John Albone



Cllr. Peter Yusen

Town Maintenance Contractor

The Lengthsman has been working on improvements to the cemetery, and has spent time litter picking in various parts of the town including Houlgate Way, Starrs Close, Back Lane and Townsend.

Flyposting

The council is concerned about the practice of flyposting in Axbridge and feels that it has a detrimental effect on the appearance of the town and the conservation area. Flyposting on bus shelters, lampposts, telephone poles, etc is illegal and the council encourages the removal of such signs. The council is aware that there is a problem in Axbridge in publicising community events and is looking at ways of enabling more effective use of legal advertising spaces.



Clean-up campaign

The campaign to clear the town of dog mess continues. Many envirobags were given away at the April farmers' market, and a 'Clean-up Campaign' box was placed in the Post Office for people to provide information in confidence about regularly misused sites and descriptions of offenders. The box will be removed at the end of April and its contents processed. However it will continue to be possible to report such matters in confidence by e-mail using the address below:

cleanupthepoo@hotmail.com

Public conveniences

The public toilets in Moorland Street, formerly owned by Sedgemoor District Council, have been taken over by the Town Council which has now contracted out the tasks of opening and closing, cleaning and routine maintenance. They will continue to be open from 7.30 am to 7.30 pm daily except Christmas Day.

Parking review

The policies established for Meadow Street car park when the Town Council took it over are due for review, and a number of concerns have been expressed about parking in The Square. As the Town Council is now in the process of acquiring the Moorland Street car park it has been decided to take an overview of parking in these three areas together and review policies accordingly before the new acquisition is completed.

Vandalism on The Furlong

Lighter nights have begun and already we have had incidents of vandalism on The Furlong and changing rooms. Parents are asked to make their children aware of the possible consequences of misbehaviour, and to know where their children are. Families will be charged for damage if culprits are identified.

Axbridge Active Living

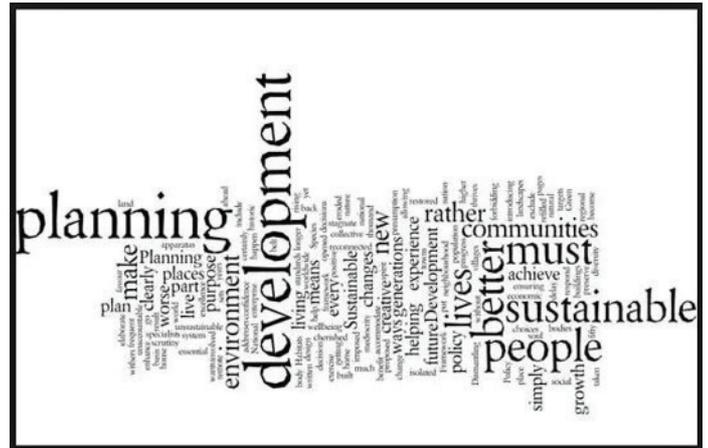
The next Axbridge Active Living will be held on Wednesday 8th May (2-4 pm in the Town Hall) and, as well as tea, coffee and cakes, those attending will receive a talk from Brian Saunders about his life on and off the theatrical stage! The group meets fortnightly and provides an opportunity for those over 55 to meet up with friends, and make new ones. You are welcome to join us - just turn up!

Mobile Sight Unit

Somerset Sight's mobile resource unit will be in Axbridge on Thurs 2 May from 10.30 - 3.30 pm. It will be located in the Furlong car park. Further information on Somerset Sight and the mobile resource unit can be found on their website at:

<http://www.somersetsight.org.uk>

Neighbourhood plan questionnaire



As was reported last month the council is working to produce a neighbourhood plan for Axbridge. NPs are a new addition to the planning system to enable local communities to have a say in the future development of their neighbourhood. In examining future planning applications the planning authority (Sedgemoor District Council) will be obliged to consider whether they are compatible with the policies laid down in the neighbourhood plan.

Production of a neighbourhood plan requires the widest consultation with all sections of the community, and before it can gain legal force the plan must be approved in a local referendum. The consultation exhibition in the Town Hall on Friday 26th (5-9 pm) and Saturday 27th April (10am-4 pm) will be the first stage of the consultation process. Those visiting the exhibition will be asked if they are willing to complete a questionnaire about their views on the town and its future. If you are unable to get to the exhibition, but would like to give your views and thoughts you can pick up a copy of the questionnaire from Axbridge Post Office. The date for completion will be given on the questionnaire.

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 agenda is displayed in advance outside the Town Hall and on the website

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

Phone: (07884 264033)
e-mail (vicky.brice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk)

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