



OYEZ!

June 2013

News from your Town Council

Bonfires

Since last month's note on bonfires some concern has been expressed about bonfires being used to dispose of unsuitable materials. Observing the guidelines below should avoid disputes and avoid complaints about nuisance which could lead to legal action:

1. Only burn dry material - damp garden waste produces much more smoke.
2. Never burn household rubbish, rubber tyres or anything containing plastic, foam or paint.
3. Never use old engine oil, methylated spirits or petrol to light or encourage the fire.
4. Avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable weather conditions - smoke hangs in the air on damp, still days and in the evening. If it is windy, smoke may be blown into neighbouring gardens and across roads.
5. Avoid burning when air pollution in your area is high or very high.
6. Warn your neighbours - they are much less likely to complain. Remember that bonfire and barbecue parties can cause noise as well as smoke.

Power cuts advice

Western Power Distribution, which operates the electricity distribution network, has issued some advice on power cuts:

Being prepared for a power cut:

- Keep a battery torch handy
- Protect sensitive electrical equipment with a surge protector plug
- Remember only analogue landline phones work in a power cut
- If you have a stairlift find out if it can be operated manually

If there is a power cut:

- Check your trip switches
- If you have neighbours nearby see if they are affected
- Turn off electrical equipment which could get hot
- Keep your freezer shut
- Stay away from any fallen overhead lines
- Call Western Power Distribution & tell them you have no power (0800 365 900)

If a power cut would leave you vulnerable:

eg. If you rely on power for medical reasons, are blind or partially sighted, disabled, elderly or very ill, you can join Western Power's Priority Service Register. They provide special assistance to those on the register if a power cut is prolonged.

For more information about how to register e-mail priorityservicemids@westernpower.co.uk or telephone 0845 724 0240.

Somerset Showcase

This year's Somerset Showcase will take place in Axbridge on Saturday 24th August (the beginning of the August Bank Holiday weekend). Further information can be found on the website www.somersetshowcase.info

Showcase road closures

To enable Somerset Showcase events to take place the following roads will be closed to traffic on Saturday 24th August at the times shown:

8am - 5pm	West Street
	High Street
	St Mary's Street
8am - 11pm	The Square

Please note that these closures apply to all traffic, including residents' vehicles. Only emergency vehicles are exempt.

Meet the Mayor

The Mayor, Councillor John Albone, will be holding surgeries every Tuesday between 2pm and 3pm at the Fairtrade Cafe in the Church Rooms. The cafe is open from 2-4pm every Tuesday.

Reservoir consultation

Bristol Water has delivered a newsletter to all residents which summarises feedback so far to the reservoir proposals, and details the second round of consultations. If you did not receive one you can find the information on the web at www.cheddar-reservoir-two.co.uk

As part of the second round of consultations there will be an exhibition in Axbridge Town Hall on Saturday 29th June from 10am - 4pm.

Reservoir archaeology

Starting on June 24th, trenches will begin to be dug around the proposed site of the new Cheddar reservoir. These are for archaeological investigation as part of the environmental assessment for the proposed reservoir. Over 180 trial trenches will be dug by expert teams working for Wessex Archaeology.

The Somerset Levels are considered to be one of the richest areas for archaeological remains in Britain, and the work is designed to identify any archaeological remains in the proposed reservoir site.

The work has been agreed with the planning authorities and the relevant landowners.

AONB volunteers

The Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit has a very committed group of volunteers but is always seeking new recruits to join them on a regular or occasional basis.

The AONB Volunteers are involved with all sorts of activities which help the AONB Unit to care for sites on the Mendip Hills.

If you would like further details please contact Nichola Penn by email or telephone:

mendipvolunteers@gmail.com
tel. 07770 646161

To find out more about volunteering visit www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk/volunteering

Broken bench

The broken bench on the corner of Parkfield is to be repaired by the Town Maintenance Contractor.

Community speed watch

The Town Council has decided not to participate in the Community Speed Watch scheme which enables local people to monitor vehicle speeds in the community's roads using a speed gun. However if any residents are interested in taking part and receiving training they should contact PC Pete Wills on his email Pete.Wills@avonandsomerset.police.uk or telephone 101.

Cheddar Valley Food Bank

The council has agreed a grant towards the setting-up costs of a Cheddar Valley Plus Food Bank to provide for a clear need in the Cheddar

Valley area which cannot be properly served by existing foodbanks in Highbridge and Weston. It will cover the BS25, 26, 27 and 28 postal areas and extend beyond towards Priddy and Westbury-sub-Mendip, and will be operated in conjunction with the Trussel Trust, a nationwide body with considerable expertise in this field.

Garden waste

There have been incidents of residents tipping their hedge cuttings into The Furlong. This constitutes litter - it is a householder's responsibility to dispose of such material properly.

Obstructed road signs and vision

The council has drawn the attention of Somerset Highways to a number of road signs which have become obscured by overgrown vegetation, and also to the danger of obstructed visibility for traffic entering the by-pass on the slip road from Townsend caused by uncut grass.

Axbridge Fun Day

The Fun Day will be on Saturday 13th July. Anyone interested in having a stall should contact Councillor Mrs. Ham. There will be a free-cycle event again where goods no longer needed can be passed on to others. The programme will be issued about 2 weeks before the event.

Axbridge Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Action Group is processing the data from the questionnaires given out at the consultation exhibition last month and afterwards. They would like to obtain a greater number of opinions, and will have a stall at the Axbridge Fun Day which will provide another opportunity for residents to get involved.

Town Crier

The Town Crier, Yvonne Chamberlain, recently took part in a Festival of Town Criers held at Frome and was awarded the cup for overall best crier from Somerset.

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:
07884 264033 vicky.brice@axbridge-tc.gov.uk

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