



OYEZ!

October 2014

News from your Town Council

Library review

County councillor Dawn Hill reported that a review and consultation on library services in Somerset is being conducted. There is no intention to close any library buildings, but some library services and the way they are delivered are being looked at. The future of the Performing Arts Library at Yeovil is one example.

District council matters

District councillor Mrs Scott reported that a highways officer is to be appointed specifically to advise on highways considerations in planning applications. She also advised that some funding might be available for play area equipment, and that Sedgemoor is working with the Environment Agency on flooding policies.

Councillors drew her attention to local concerns which are ongoing including the promised mapping of the culverts under the Square, and the Coffin Lane campaign.

Police

Council has been informed that PC Rachael Cooke, named in the August Oyez as the new local beat manager, has now left the Cheddar team. Appointment of a new beat manager is awaited.

Christmas trees

The Sports and Social Committee reported that the Christmas trees will be put up on the 29th of November this year.

Axbridge Museum

As reported last month the numbers of visitors to the museum, and therefore income, have continued to drop. In addition to considering ways to reduce costs and generate income the Trustees have requested a grant from the Council towards the services provided by the museum. A grant of £1300 was made, which had been included in the budget.

Electricity supply

To reduce costs and improve efficiency the electricity supply contracts for the changing rooms, public conveniences and car park are to be combined with a single supplier.

Problems following the Carnival & Fair

Concerns have been expressed about the aftermath of the otherwise very successful carnival and fair last month which saw large numbers of young people congregating in the town and especially on the Furlong. This resulted in underage drinking, loud music, fireworks, vandalism and much litter including dangerous broken glass, and considerable disturbance to residents into the early hours of Sunday morning.

This raised several questions including:

- Do parents know where their children are, and what they are doing? There were numbers of 13/14 year olds out unaccompanied very late at night.
- Where are underage children getting their alcohol?
- Whose responsibility is it to clear up the mess - managers of the Junior Saxons had to clear the pitches of broken glass and other rubbish before it was safe to play football.

Consideration is being given to ways to ensure an adequate police presence at the event in future years, and of organising a joint community effort to clear up.

Town Maintenance contractor

The maintenance contractor worked 8 hours in September on tasks including:

- Picking up litter on the Furlong, car park and Townsend
- Strimming at Starrs Close and at the allotments
- Repairing the allotment gate
- Work on the hedge on the Furlong
- Fixing the doorbell for the council offices

Axbridge Surgery coffee mornings

The Axbridge and Wedmore Medical Practice has a Patient Participation Group which is holding occasional coffee mornings. All patients of the practice are invited to join them for tea/coffee and cake. They will have information on local groups that you could join, or just come for a chat!

The first coffee morning will be 11am to 1pm on Friday 28th November. Subsequent dates will be advertised locally.

Civic Awards

Enclosed with this Oyez is a nomination form for a Civic Award. They are also available from Axbridge Chemists and the Co-op. If there is someone who you feel has made an outstanding contribution to the community please return your form by 22nd December - they can be left at the Chemists or Post Office or sent to the Town Clerk (address overleaf). The rules for awards are shown on the form.

Work at the Furlong

Authorisation has been given for a number of works on the Furlong:

- Removal of the old litter bin
- Maintenance of the roundabout safety surface
- Replacing chain links on the assault course
- Repairing the top gate hinges

It is hoped to obtain grant funding for some of this work.

Illegal parking

Illegal parking on double yellow lines, sometimes also partly on the pavement, has increased especially in West Street, High Street and at the top of St. Mary's Street. The council felt that the

parking enforcement team should be asked to come to Axbridge after 7pm to enforce parking regulations.

Townsend resurfacing

There was an error in the re-lining of the road at Townsend, and the single dotted line which has caused confusion will be removed. The ramp outside Compton House has not been re-instated and this will be raised with Somerset Highways. Members felt it was a pity that potholes in the vicinity of the works had not been repaired at the same time.

Town Hall hire

Axbridge Town Trust has informed the Council that charges for hire of the Town Hall are to be increased as below for 2015 - the first increase for 4 years:-

REVISED TOWN HALL CHARGES FOR 2015			
	Residents/Charities	Non Residents	Comments
Main Hall	£10.50	£13	per hour
Council Chambers	£8.50	£11	per hour
Kitchen Hire - tea/coffee	£7	£10	per session
Kitchen Hire - catering / cooking	£10	£12	per session
Bar Hire	£5	£7	per session
Permission for sale of alcohol	£10 / £20 (half day/whole)	£12 / £24	per session
Market Day hire	£40	£50	for 8am-2pm period, 1st Saturday of the month
Childrens parties	£25	£30	for 4 hour maximum period between 8am-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 usually held in the Town Hall on the 3rd Monday each month at 7.30 pm

The next meeting will be on Monday 17th November

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

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

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

or by post to PO Box 1184, Axbridge, BS26 2WJ

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