



OYEZ!

November 2014

News from your Town Council

Defibrillator training

There is a defibrillator located outside the pharmacy for use in emergency. This would be a more valuable asset if more people knew how to operate it. South West Ambulance has offered free training in its use for anyone interested. The training would take place in Axbridge.

Mr Shah is happy to coordinate the list of those interested in attending training - if you would be interested please call in at, or telephone, Axbridge Chemists (01934-733230). If he receives enough support before Christmas he will sort out training in the New Year.

Cheddar Reservoir

The reservoir scheme was approved by Sedgemoor Council planners in June this year, subject to a detailed agreement on mitigation measures. This has now been completed and full planning permission was granted on November 10th, complete with 40 conditions, including:

- The provision of a Community Fund
- Financial contribution to archaeological investigations on the site.
- Recruitment of local people for employment in jobs connected with the development.
- Contributions to cost of pedestrian and highway works

No work on the project is likely in the near future - the investment still needs approval from Ofwat, the water industry's economic regulator, but work must be begun not later than seven years from now.

Houlgate Way

Sedgemoor District Council held an Affordable Housing Consultation in Axbridge Town Hall recently, which left the impression that it was promoting the development of 50 houses and an employment area on the fields south of Houlgate Way between Axbridge Surgery and Compton Lane.

Town councillors expressed serious concerns about the process being undertaken, about which the Town Council was not fully informed, especially as a Neighbourhood Plan was currently being produced. As a result an informal meeting was held between the Town Council and officers from Sedgemoor. The main points clarified at this meeting were:

- The land owner involved wishes to develop this site.
- A planning agent has had preliminary consultations with Sedgemoor about the possibility of development on this site
- No planning application has yet been made for the site.
- Sedgemoor is carrying out a housing needs survey for Axbridge, and the results of this will be one of the factors to be considered if an application is made.
- Sedgemoor undertook to keep the Town Council better informed on these matters from now on.
- If a planning application is made, full public consultation would follow.

Town maintenance contractor

The town maintenance contractor worked 10½ hours in October, including:

- Work on the footpaths around Starrs Close and Marron Close
- Work on the car park, the Furlong & allotments
- Clearing rubbish at the cemetery

Police report

- It is expected that a new beat manager for the area will be appointed next month.
- Crime statistics for Axbridge & the Axevale area for the last month include 6 non-dwelling burglaries and 34 calls for service.
- A Sedgemoor Rural Crime initiative will take place in December & January, which will focus on drink driving, shoplifting & rural crime.

Christmas festivities

The Christmas trees will be put up on Saturday 29th November.

The Christmas festivities in The Square will be on Saturday 20th December. A road closure application has been made for that evening.

Civic Awards

Civic Awards nomination forms were issued with the last Oyez. Remember if there is someone you would like to nominate as having made an outstanding contribution to the community please return your nomination form by 22nd December by leaving it at the Chemists, Post Office or Surgery, or sending it to the Town Clerk (address overleaf)

Budget

The council has set its budget for the next financial year which will require an increase of 1.34%. The funding comes from precept and grant. The effect on the precept will be determined at the council's December meeting when the level of grant from Sedgemoor will be known.

Library services

The Somerset Library Services Consultation contains a number of proposals to change the way the library service operates which would include improving digital access, introducing free Wi-Fi, reducing mobile library stops and providing support through the home delivery service. Comments are needed by 11th January. Anyone interested in seeing the proposals or commenting on them can find the documents and questionnaire online at

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/have-your-say/consultations/library-service-consultation>

Streets of Axbridge project

The proposal to modify the layout of The Square for an experimental period will now be able to go ahead. The Council had been asked to agree to match fund this project to the sum of £1,250. This would enable release of the remaining grant funding from Sedgemoor District Council and the Lottery to cover the total project cost of £12,500. It was agreed that the Council pay this match funding as pledges of donations had been received to meet this.

As part of the trial, it had been suggested that the Council may be able to host some of the funds to purchase tangible assets, such as benches - resulting in the items being in the ownership

of the Council, risk assessed and insured. The Council agreed in principle to manage the funds and facilitate the purchase of some items.

Youth Club

A new youth club has started in Axbridge open to those in year 7 upwards. It meets on Mondays in school term time from 7.00 to 9.00pm in the Church Rooms.

For more information telephone 07530 192653, or go to the website at:

www.nsyouthclubs.org.uk

Miscellaneous items

Some other matters discussed by the Council this month included:

- Poor finish of the resurfacing at Townsend
- Spillage in the street by recycling contractors
- Purchase of furniture for the Council's new office
- Small grants to Axbridge Singers & Mendip Transport
- Drainage problems in Moorland Street and Old Church Road
- Parking obstruction and yellow line enforcement

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 15th December

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