



OYEZ!

February 2015

News from your Town Council

Axbridge Town Square improvements

Axbridge Action Group has received £12,500 funding from local and national organisations to fund environmental improvements on a trial basis in Axbridge Town Square.

The Big Lottery Fund is the major contributor with other donations from Sedgemoor District Council, The Jack Todd Bequest and The Action Group and donations from Axbridge businesses; The Almshouse, Butcombe Brewery, Enable, The Lamb Inn and Ginkgo Projects.

Peter Harding of Axbridge Action Group said: *"We are really excited to be able to start trialling some changes that we hope will not only improve the balance between cars and pedestrians in Axbridge, but will also start a conversation about what the people who live in, and visit, Axbridge want to see in the future"*.

A part of the funding is to pay for Community Facilitators to help with consultation and community engagement activities. If you are interested in applying to do this work contact Pete Harding on 01934 733689

The trial will begin in April 2015, and more information can be found at:

www.streetsofaxbridge.org.uk

or on Facebook by searching for Streets of Axbridge

Oyez! - Distributors needed

Oyez reaches every household in the town via a team of volunteer distributors. If you would be willing to help in this, either by taking on a small monthly round or by being willing to be called on when a regular distributor is unavailable please contact Vicky Brice, the Town Clerk (*contact details overleaf*)

Annual assembly

The town's annual assembly will be held on Monday 9th March at 8.00 pm in the Town Hall. This is an open meeting for all residents of Axbridge.

Somerset Showcase

The Showcase will be held this year on Saturday 5th September, in conjunction with the Farmers' Market.

Civic service

This year's Civic Service will be held on Sunday 1st March. Thanks to all those who submitted nominations for the Civic Awards for outstanding service to the community. This year the awards are to be made to Mary Bratt and Graham Page. All residents are invited to this celebration which will take place at 3.00pm in Axbridge Church and afterwards in the Town Hall. The service will also mark the retirement of Vonnie Chamberlain from her 40 years service as Town Crier.

Dog fouling

An increasing number of complaints about dog fouling are being received, particularly around High Street and Back Lane, and Council viewed a photo showing dog faeces directly in front of a resident's door. Council discussed whether the provision of additional dog and litter bins would resolve this matter, but were generally of the view that a successful prosecution would be the most effective deterrent. In the first instance it was therefore considered that the focus should be on providing additional dog warden services. It was decided that:

- Council encourage all residents, to email the Town Clerk (*address overleaf*) with dates, times and places (and names where possible) of instances of dog fouling
- Council approach Sedgemoor District Council and ask to pay for an additional warden
- Council request the existing Dog Warden to visit more frequently

Litter

Concerns have been received about litter in the town. Complaints about litter left by recycling crews have been reported to the recycling contractors, but it is clear that they are not the only cause. It was noted that apart from being unsightly and potentially hazardous it is costly - a significant part of the town maintenance contractor's time is taken up by litter clearing. The council is asking Sedgemoor to empty the Back Lane bin more frequently.

Axbridge Museum

The museum will open for the 2015 season on Wednesday 1st April, and there will be an opening ceremony on Saturday 4th April during the Farmers' Market. The season will run until 5th October. There will be a variety of monthly displays in addition to the permanent exhibits.

Community stall

As mentioned last month the Council has produced some guidelines for the use of the community stall at the Farmers' Market. Any organisation wishing to use the community stall should contact the Town Clerk (*contact details overleaf*) who can supply a copy of the guidelines and make bookings.

Town maintenance contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor worked 12 hours in January and carried out the following tasks:

- removing litter from the Furlong and car park
- removing litter from Back Lane, Starrs Close and Townsend.
- scraping the path and removing brambles at the cemetery,
- removing brambles in Back Lane,
- clearing gutters in the car park
- repairing the grass verge at Townsend.

Council noted that a great detail of the contractor's time was spent removing litter and stressed that he should only remove litter from land owned/managed by the Town Council, but could report back on any other areas needing attention. The Clerk would contact Sedgemoor District Council highlighting increased incidence of litter in the area.

Drains in Old Church Road

Progress has been made with the problem of sewer overflow in Old Church Road. Wessex Water removed a large amount of waste from the sewer before jetting it. The situation will be monitored, and there will be further discussion with Wessex Water to see whether further work is needed.

Obstruction of the bus route

Not for the first time the 126 bus recently had to do a three-point turn in the Square and return down Cheddar Road causing delays to traffic, late running and omission of the Houlgate Way stop. The cause was a vehicle too large for a parking bay. Parking is permitted in the Square only within the marked parking bays.

Carnival

A meeting was held on 27th January to understand the organisers' concerns about the future of Axbridge Carnival. It was noted that the Carnival Committee wishes to continue to organise a

carnival procession. With less financial burden, the support from the community that the meeting had demonstrated and improved integration with the fair, they felt that more direct help would be forthcoming. With increased help to drum up more entrants and to run the event on the day, the Carnival could continue. Members noted that alternative ways to raise funds had been considered and that the Carnival Committee now feels it has the support of the town to continue.

Sports & Social Club AGM

Axbridge Sports and Social Club AGM is taking place in the skittle alley in The Lamb at 7.30pm Friday 6 March, to be followed by skittles and a social evening with nibbles and a drink on arrival. If you are interested in getting involved or would just like to get to know us please come along.

Reservoir project

It was reported last month that OFWAT had disallowed the planned expenditure on the first stage of the proposed new reservoir. Bristol Water has now announced that is seeking a review of this decision.

Other matters

Some other matters mentioned or discussed at council this month include:

- Moorland Street No Through Road sign
- Hinkley Point development
- The Hinkley connection pylon line
- The Council's complaints procedure
- The play area & Furlong safety log
- The public convenience maintenance log
- Pot holes on the A371
- Parking enforcement
- Faulty street lights
- The condition of the allotments car park
- Use of the maces for ceremonial occasions
- Progress with purchase of the car park in Moorland Street

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 16th March.**

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