



OYEZ!

July 2015

News from your Town Council

Axbridge Carnival & Fair

This year's Axbridge Carnival will be held on Saturday 19th September, and the annual fair will be in The Square from 16th to 19th September.

Allotment available

There is some vacant space in the Council allotments. Anyone who would like to have an allotment should speak to the Town Clerk (contact details overleaf).

Streets of Axbridge consultation

The Streets of Axbridge Project held an exhibition and consultation session on the 18th July which was attended by about 60 people. Anyone else who has queries or observations about the experimental changes to The Square can contact the project at:

- Peter Harding - 01934 733689
- Facebook - Streets of Axbridge
- www.streetsofaxbridge.org.uk

Police priorities

A police report to Council indicated that use of modified vehicles and anti-social driving were a police priority at present. Council suggested anti-social behaviour as a second priority, and indicated that a presence at social gatherings such as the fun day, carnival/fair and showcase would be appreciated, as would their attendance at pub watch meetings.

Emergency plan

The town's Emergency Plan now needs to be reviewed following changes, in particular, to the Council membership. Councillor Laken will draft an updated plan for the Council to consider.

Verges & paths

The Council noted a number of problems relating to roadside verges and footpaths and requested action from those responsible:

- Overgrown grass by the Townsend slip road to the by-pass restricting drivers' vision
- Ragwort growing on verges especially at Townsend, Cross Lane & the A38

- Path overgrown: Marron Close & Jubilee Road
- Future maintenance of land at Starrs Close which has now been cleared.

Council representatives

- Councillor Barbara Wells was appointed to represent the Council on the Axbridge & District Museum Trust
- Councillor Ian Laken was re-appointed as the Parish Path Liaison Officer

Houlgate Way consultation

An exhibition in the Town Hall was recently held about a possible proposal for housing development in Houlgate Way. This was organised by Hunter Page Planning Ltd as a preliminary local consultation on behalf of a potential developer. Neither the Town Council or Sedgemoor District Council were involved in this consultation, though Sedgemoor had some staff there to answer queries about affordable housing. No application for planning permission has been made at present.

The Town Council is in the process of developing, through local consultation, a Neighbourhood Plan under the provisions of the Locality Act, and feels that significant developments in the town should await the completion of this plan which is intended to provide a framework for the town's future development.

Town maintenance contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor worked 14 hours in June. Work completed includes:

- The Furlong (litter, strimming, nettles, weeding)
- The allotments (strimming)
- The car park (litter and strimming)
- Back Lane (litter etc)

Other matters

Some other matters mentioned, noted or discussed at Council during July include:

- Use of the Farmers' Market Community Stall
- PAT testing of council equipment
- Financial monthly report
- Play area and Furlong safety checks
- Public convenience log
- New white lining on the by-pass
- Clerk's additional hours
- Training for new councillors
- Admin matters:
 - Direct debit authorisation
 - Cheque signatories
 - Additions to standing orders
 - Delegation to Clerk
- Faulty street lights in Hippisley Drive & Mendip Close
- Condition of the road surface in the High Street

Museum exhibitions

For the rest of the season the Museum will have the following exhibitions:

- In August - wildlife photography by Michael Dearden
- 5th Sept. - Display of old leases of Axbridge properties (*in the Town Hall*)
- 5th Sept onwards
- Houses of Axbridge

Adopt-a-path scheme

Somerset County Council's rights of way team is interested in hearing from anyone willing to adopt a public footpath, bridleway, restricted byway or a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT).

People who regularly use rights of way in Somerset are invited to help keep routes open and accessible for all under a new adopt-a-path scheme.

Volunteers are asked to simply walk, cycle or ride their path as often as possible, report any problems to their local adopt-a-path co-ordinator, and help keep signs, gates and stiles clear of overgrown vegetation.

"The adopt-a-path scheme is a fantastic opportunity for community-minded residents to help us keep an eye on the network and make sure all paths are accessible.

"We already have some local parishes who do this and they have been a great success. So whether you already use a path regularly or are looking for an excuse to get out more, we would really appreciate your help. Please get in touch if you have questions or want to find out more."

"I would encourage anyone who loves the outdoors and can spare a few hours here and there to join this rewarding scheme and help give something back to their local community."

All adopt-a-path volunteers will be loaned equipment they might need such as hi-vis jackets, gloves and secateurs.

For more information please:

phone: 0300 123 2224

e-mail: ROWVolunteers@somerset.gov.uk

or view a leaflet at:

<http://tinyurl.com/o4zlss6>

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 of each month at 7.30 pm.

The August meeting will be on Monday 17th August

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