



OYEZ!

October 2015

News from your Town Council

The Streets of Axbridge

The Streets of Axbridge Group which planned the experimental changes to The Square, and is consulting about other improvements to the town, is holding an event in the Town Hall on Monday the 9th November 2015, between 6.30 pm and 9.30 pm.

This is an opportunity for you to come along, look at the suggestions that have been made since the open day in July and comment further. Let them know what you think, it's your town. Refreshments provided.

If you can not make the evening but would like to comment email barbara.wells9@btopenworld.com or phone 01934 733779.

Clothing banks

It is understood that the charity clothing and other recycling banks are to be removed from the Cliff Street and Budgens car parks in Cheddar. This will leave the area without such a facility.

Axbridge Town Trust

100 Club:

All the tickets for the 100 Club have been sold and the first bi-monthly draw was held on 5th October. The winning tickets were:

- 1st prize £100 ticket 82
- 2nd prize £50 ticket 42
- 3rd prize £25 ticket 88

The Trust would like to thank all those who participated in the 100 Club.

Repair work:

- The Council Chamber window in the Town Hall has been replaced at a cost of £6100.
- Parts of the wall above the wells in The Square have recently been repaired and repointed.

Planters:

The Trust is appreciative of donations of £300 from the Council and £225 from local businesses towards the cost of maintaining the planters. The winter planting has now been completed.

The Furlong

Fly tipping:

Hedge trimming in The Furlong has exposed a great deal of fly tipping, including garden waste. This means that the council will have to hire a skip to remove the rubbish. It is pointed out that fly-tipping of any material is an offence which can incur a heavy fine. Sedgemoor operate a service for recycling of garden waste using green bins/bags.

Play area:

Following an incident involving the lower gate into the play area close to the Penn Way/car park access it is proposed to lock this out of action for a trial period, with a sign directing users to the upper gate from the Moorland Street - Furlong Place path. In the longer run consideration may be given to replacing the upper gate with a kissing gate.

The council objected to the planning application for a solar power development at Townsend Farm, but, in case the application should be approved by the planning authority, and consequently a community grant be made, the council resolved that it should be used to improve play area and parking facilities at the Furlong.

Cricket nets:

It was noted that use of the cricket nets appears not to have flourished over a long period. This will be discussed with the Cricket Club, but consideration will be given to the permanent closure of this facility, and possibly using the concrete base to relocate the ball wall.

Town Maintenance Contractor

The Town Maintenance contractor worked 14½ hours in September, including work at:

- The Furlong (*litter, strimming, weeds, fitting of bench*)
- The allotments (*clearing glass from hedge*)
- The car park (*litter and strimming*)
- The Cemetery (*cutting back tree, brambles, litter*)
- Back Lane (*Removing glass*)
- Town Hall (*fitting key safe*)

Civic Service

Enclosed with this Oyez is a nomination form for a Civic Award. They are also available from Axbridge Chemists, Post Office and the Co-op.

If there is someone who you feel has made an outstanding contribution to the community please return your form by 18th December - they can be left at the Chemists, Post Office or Co-Op, or sent to the Town Clerk (address overleaf). The rules for awards are shown on the form.

Solar farm

A 25 local residents attended part of the October council meeting because of interest in the planning application for construction of a solar power facility at Townsend Farm, and 6 residents addressed the council on this matter.

The council resolved that Sedgemoor District Council be advised that the Town Council objects to the application on environmental grounds (particularly the visual impact the development would have on the landscape) and its effect on wildlife.

Car parks

The council has approved the addition of a 'Short Stay' notice to the Moorland Street car park sign. This is intended to underline that the car parks are intended to be used as:

- The Square - very short term parking
- Moorland Street car park - short term parking
- The Town car park - long term parking

The council has accepted a quote from A1 Gardening & Tree Surgery for regular grass cutting and tree works at the Town Car Park (and removal of a dead tree), and regular weeding and to cut back shrubs at Moorland Street car park.

Traffic in The Square

Concern has been expressed at the difficulties experienced by buses in passing through the Square on Farmers' Market days. Council feels the bus route must be protected, and is concerned at reports that some buses are operating along the by-pass during the market. Council will discuss the matter with the market manager, and possibly the bus companies, and give consideration to reducing the parking spaces available on market days.

Concern was also expressed about traffic problems in the Square during the fair. Consideration will be given to the suggestion that temporary signs should be placed on the approaches to the Square on fair days warning of the presence of children there.

Townsend cycle lane

The cycle lane marked on the road between the Strawberry Line path and Townsend is being gradually reduced in width by slippage of the bank. This is to be raised with Somerset Highways.

A similar encroachment has been noted in Moor Green.

Remembrance Day

The annual Remembrance Day ceremony and service will be held at the War Memorial and in the Church on Sunday 8th November at 11.00 am

Sports & Social Club

- The Christmas trees will be put up on 28th November. Any volunteers to help would be welcome!
- A community event over the May Day weekend is being planned, in conjunction with the local public houses.

Other matters

Some other matters mentioned, noted or discussed at council in October include . . .

- Electricity contract & supply
- Town Hall router
- Use of the community stall
- Review of system of internal control, financial regulations and audit
- Community speed watch
- Pointer sign in The Square
- 'Please close the gate' sign for the cemetery
- Fair Trade status
- Allotment allocation
- The 2016/17 budget - to be further considered at the November council meeting.
- Grant to The Axbridge Museum Trust
- The use of the community notice board
- Project to improve access to the church & church rooms
- Improvements at the allotments
- Need for improvements to the public conveniences

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 November meeting will be on Monday 16th 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

If you would like to respond to anything published in Oyez! you can do this by letter or e-mail to the Town Clerk or by going to the Council website and clicking on the 'Contact us' button in the left-hand menu