



OYEZ!
November 2015

News from your Town Council

Local Plan - Public Consultation

Please put **Monday 14th December** in your diary as this will be an opportunity to view Sedgemoor District Council's local plan consultation document at the public exhibition in the Town Hall between 1pm and 6pm.

The new Local Plan, when adopted, will set out the vision, objectives and policy framework for future development in the District, including addressing the requirements relating to housing, business growth/job creation, retail and other facilities and infrastructure. It will be the basis for safeguarding the natural and historic environment, adapting to climate change and securing good design. A review of the settlement development boundaries is included. Essentially, this document will shape the future development in Axbridge - what will happen, where and when. Together with adopted Neighbourhood Plans, the Local Plan will be the starting point for determining planning applications in the District.

Sedgemoor District Council officers will be meeting with the Town Council at 6pm straight after the exhibition to present the local plan consultation (to which members of the public are welcome to attend). The Council will then meet at 7.30pm that evening (on 14th December 2015), with a view to responding to the consultation before the deadline of 5pm on 18th December 2015.

This is your chance to have your say. The local plan consultation is available on Sedgemoor District Council's website (see below). This document and supporting information can be viewed on the Council's website (www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/ldf) and at a number of locations including Cheddar Library and Sedgemoor District Council offices and at other public exhibitions within the District. Comments can be submitted:

- Online - you can comment directly on the document using their website consultation portal at:
 - <http://sedgemoor-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/>
- Completing a comments form. This can be accessed via the Council's website at: www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/ldf and either emailed or posted to them; or
- Freehand response by letter or email

It is your community... make your views known!

Housing Needs Survey

During December you will receive a Housing Needs Survey which is being organised by the Town Council. This survey is needed, as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process, to try to assess the level of future housing need in the Town. Whether you are planning to stay where you are, move to a larger property, downsize, want to live independently of parents, or move closer to relatives - now is the time to say! We need to know our future housing needs in Axbridge - Please make every effort to complete and return the survey.

Solar Farm

This application for a solar farm on land to the south of Townsend Farm (02/15/00019) is under consideration by Sedgemoor District Council. The Town Council objected to the application on environmental grounds (particularly the visual impact the development would have on the landscape) and its effect on wildlife. A Town Councillor will represent the Council's view, should it be referred to its development meeting for determination.

Nominations for Civic Awards

It's Civic Nomination time! Please take the time to nominate that special person (or more than one person!) you feel makes an outstanding contribution to the Axbridge Community. Nomination forms are available from (and can be returned to) the Post Office, Chemist and Co-op. The form can also be downloaded from the website or obtained and returned to the Town Clerk at the address overleaf. A few rules apply, which are shown on the form. Please hand completed forms in by **18th December 2015** and say thank you to those who deserve this recognition.

Axbridge Museum Trust

The Trust appreciated the grant from the Town Council and would now receive a sum of money from National Trust, whose members could visit the museum free of charge. Stuck for a Christmas present idea? How about membership of the Museum - a lovely present giving the recipient free entry for the year!

Farmers' Market

Several issues have been raised in relation to the Farmers Market, some of which may have been resolved. There is an issue with the difficulties facing the buses. The market is an asset to the Town and members wish it continued success whilst protecting the bus service. An informal meeting would be sought to discuss this matter.

Budget 2016/17

The budget for 2016/17 was agreed which requires a precept of £71,390.00 - just a 1.36% increase on last year.

Proposed Development - Houlgate Way

The agent has advised that following public consultation his client would be comfortable with including an area of car parking for the Town/Doctor's Surgery in the application. In order to do so, he required some evidence as to the additional requirement for parking. The Town Council agreed to signpost the agent to the Neighbourhood Plan and Streets of Axbridge groups.

Axbridge Town Trust - Vacancy

This Charity which looks after many of the town assets (the Square, the Town Hall and various artefacts) - has a vacancy for a Town Trustee. An election will be held on Monday 7th December 2015 at 7:15pm in the Town Hall, Council Chamber (members of the public are welcome to attend). Anyone wishing to stand should contact the Clerk to the Town Trust, Alan Mortimore, 30 Mendip Close, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2DG Tel: 01934 732687 Email: alanmortimore@btinternet.com. Further details on the Town Trust responsibilities can be found at: <http://www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk/trust/index.html>

Community Stall - Farmers Market

Local voluntary or charitable bodies are welcome to use the stall! Please contact the Town Clerk if interested.

Axbridge Sea Cadets

Congratulations to the Axbridge and Cheddar Valley Sea Cadets who, on 25th October 2015, took part in the Somerset and Dorset District Trafalgar parade at Bridport and won the award for the unit with the greatest community involvement. The unit is waiting for formal notification but anticipate hosting the Trafalgar parade next year. There are now 19 senior cadets (ages 12 to 18) and five junior cadets (ages 10 to 11) who also attended the Axbridge Remembrance parade and received many favourable comments on their presence. The unit trustees are now taking over the freehold of the old Axbridge railway station and once this transfer is complete would like to clear the land to the West of the five-a-side football pitch to offer parking to local businesses and provide essential access for the disabled, which is required by HQ Sea Cadets.

Town Maintenance Contractor - Oct

He worked 9.5 hours -seven hours at the allotments and the rest litter picking and putting up the Mayor's Board.

Grants

The Town Council has made a grant to the Royal British Legion of £100 (to include the cost of the poppy wreath) and a grant of £50 to Home Start - Sedgemoor (a local charity supporting families with young children).

Cemetery Fees and Charges

The cemetery fees and charges relating to the Town Cemetery on the bypass have been reviewed and increased for the first time since 2011. The largest fee increase applies to the interment of persons who lived outside of the parish of Axbridge.

Allotment Review

The Council agreed, in principle, to introduce a deposit system on the allotments to help ensure that should plots be left in a poor condition when a tenant leaves, the deposit would be retained to pay for the necessary work to re-let the plot. The rent for the allotment plots is also to be reviewed with any increase being introduced next year.

Bus Consultations

Somerset County Council is consulting on proposed changes to the Subsidised Local Bus Services and the Discretionary Concessionary Fares Policy - www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionaryfareconsultationwww.somerset.gov.uk/bussubsidysurvey . Consultations end on 11 January 2016

Mendip Community Transport

Mendip Community Transport have a new bus available for use in Sedgemoor and would like to know, in an ideal world, what transport services we would like to see in this area. Let us know your views to pass on.

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, usually on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.30pm but

The December meeting will be held on Monday 14th December 2015.

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 email: 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 so 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