



# OYEZ!

June 2017

*News from your Town Council*

## County Councillor

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Nigel Taylor to his first meeting here as our new County Councillor. He would attend Town Council meetings as often as possible. He noted local concerns regarding the Houlgate Way application, the grass mound at the junction leading onto the bypass from Townsend which restricts the view, and to concerns with safety at the three main junctions linking Axbridge with Cheddar and Cross.

## Axbridge Museum

The Museum had 720 visitors in April up from 650 in the same period last year. Numbers of visitors in May were down, due perhaps to the roadworks.

The Museum has asked the National Trust to do its five yearly review of the Museum, when they examine and check its structure etc.

## Axbridge Carnival

This year's Carnival will take place on Saturday 23rd September, with the procession assembling at 2pm for a 2.30pm start. The Carnival Committee reports that plans are going well and float entries look promising.

The Carnival Committee requested a grant to assist with the carnival this year. Council policy is not to fund events organised by independent groups, but it can consider the one-off funding of specific items. It was resolved that the Council support the carnival on this occasion with a grant of £250, partly to cover the cost of keeping the road closed until 6pm at the Council's request.

## Relocation of Town Clerk's Office

The Town Clerk's office, currently located in the multi-user Council Chamber in the Town Hall, is to move from the 1st July to a new dedicated office on the upper floor of the Church Rooms. Contact details remain the same as shown overleaf.

## Wellness Day

Axbridge Chamber of Commerce is supporting a Health and Wellbeing day on Saturday July 8th, 10am till 4pm. Activities will be centred around the Square and include fitness, zumba and karate sessions in the Town Hall, talks in the Coach House and Church Rooms and free Health Checks in the Chemist from

10am till 3pm. All activities are free, and are not one-to-one sessions (except for Health Checks), so come along and join in, or just watch. Posters advertising the full schedule will be available shortly.

## Bristol Water roadworks

The traffic lights have been removed and normal service resumed. Members noted that two-way lights will be placed on the A38 for two weeks from 3rd July as Bristol Water take the pipeline across the road.

Whilst there had inevitably been an impact on the businesses and a reduction in visitor numbers at the Museum, members wished to thank Bristol Water for their hard work in keeping disruption to a minimum and communicating well. There was some concern regarding the state of the area at Townsend, both by the slip road and on the island itself, and the Mayor would investigate this further, with Bristol Water being requested to carry out reinstatement works if appropriate.

It is reported that the Strawberry Line path is now affected by these works, with Shute Shelve Tunnel closed, and a diversion signposted for cyclists. This will be in place until about 21st July, and again in September, but will be fully open in the school holidays.

## Axbridge Town Trust

The winning 100 Club numbers are:

- 1st Winning Number (£100) = 2
- 2nd Winning Number (£50) = 67
- 3rd Winning Number (£25) = 6

**Planters in The Square** - 13 new wooden planters being made to replace the existing concrete ones. It is hoped the new planters will be in place by the Autumn in time for the winter flowers.

**Redecoration of the Town Hall** - the Disabled Toilets, Kitchen, Corridor and Front Entrance are to be repainted.

**The Kitchen Cooker** - this was recently replaced at a cost of £2088.

## Oyez distributors needed

After many years as a member of the team which distributes Oyez around the town, one volunteer has stepped down, and one or more new volunteers are needed. If you could spare a short time once a month to help in this work please contact the Town Clerk (*contact details overleaf*). If you cannot commit to a monthly task, but would be willing to help occasionally to cover when a member of the team is away or unwell, please also contact the Town Clerk.

## Houlgate Way planning application

The planning application for development in Houlgate Way is still under consideration. Following the last Council meeting, a letter was sent to Sedgemoor District Council expressing the Town Council's concerns at the way in which the planning application

was being handled. This letter can be seen on Sedgemoor's Planning Online website (reference 02/16/00030), where there is also a further response from Somerset County Council's Traffic and Transport Development Group, and a response from the Senior Pollution Officer recommending refusal on the grounds of the odour from the poultry farm.

### **Meadow Street roadworks**

Meadow Street will be closed for 2 weeks from 24th July to enable the long-awaited repair of the hole opposite the Pharmacy. This will mean that the bus route will again be diverted along the by-pass.

### **Axbridge Day**

The Sports & Social Club were thanked for the Axbridge Day which was held in The Square on 17th June 2017. It was a fabulous day, with fantastic weather and bands! There were a couple of incidents, but otherwise it was a very enjoyable occasion.

### **Leisure & Recreation**

- Ways to improve the ground by the ball wall are being investigated
- A working party has dismantled the posts for the cricket nets and they have been removed from the site, which the lengthsman is tidying.
- A tree has fallen in the hedge adjacent to the grass "play area" in Knightstone Close. The Lengthsman has cleared this and, hopefully, saved the fence. A survey of the trees in and around the Furlong is to be arranged as it appears that others may need attention
- The annual inspection of the play area shows that some remedial work is required. A contractor is inspecting the facility and will provide advice and a quote.

### **Annual Report**

The Council's Annual Report for 2016-17 has been published and a copy is enclosed with this edition of Oyez.

### **Town Maintenance Contractor**

The contractor worked 9 hours during May on tasks including:

- litter picking in The Furlong and car parks
- strimming and hedge works
- removing the cricket nets
- removing and replacing the Mayor and Civic boards to enable signwriting.

### **SALC membership**

Council agreed to renew its membership of the Somerset Association of Local Councils. SALC is able to provide support and advice to the council.

### **Other matters . .**

*Other matters raised or discussed in Council in June include:*

- Tall grass at Shute Shelve A38/A371 junction
- Seeking costings for graffiti removal from bridge
- Removal of display board from picnic area
- Regulations on vehicle repairing on highway
- Unauthorised tree planting at Cheddar Road/A371 junction
- Loose bricks in the Square
- Access for emergency vehicles in Moor Green
- Blocked drains in Moorland Street & St Mary's Street
- Repairs to public conveniences
- Furlong vehicular access from car park
- Suggestion of a flashing sign on Townsend westbound slip road
- Need for pruning of school trees
- Methods of payment for invoices, etc.

**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 normally held in the Town Hall on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.30 pm***  
**The July meeting will be on Monday 17th July at 7.30pm**

**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](http://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**