



# OYEZ!

July 2017

News from your Town Council

## Sedgemoor Local Plan

### A statement from Axbridge Town Council

*Axbridge Town Council would like to assure the people of Axbridge that we are continuing to do everything that we can to protect the integrity of the town. We continue to object to Sedgemoor, in the strongest possible terms, about the policies they are implementing within their emerging Local Plan. Within this plan Axbridge is destined to become a Tier 2 settlement and, as such will be expected to accept a housing policy not based on local need but upon the needs of Sedgemoor as a whole.*

*Furthermore, it would appear that Sedgemoor is considering North Somerset's request to accept the unfulfilled new build requirements of their council to add them to Sedgemoor's already overloaded quota. We have not been consulted on this policy but Axbridge as a rural community is important to us all and we will continue to represent Axbridge residents and to oppose what we consider to be unsustainable developments.*

*All individual residents are able to view the local plan and comments made on Sedgemoor District Council's website ([www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/LocalPlan](http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/LocalPlan)) and can submit their own comments/ objections to the Planning Policy Team (email: [ldf:sedgemoor.gov.uk](mailto:ldf:sedgemoor.gov.uk)) or via your local district councillors. All your opinions do matter and taken together they could make a difference. Please support Axbridge Town Council in our attempts to protect our community.*

## NHS Health Checks

The NHS Health Check van is returning to Axbridge Square on 29th August between 9:30am and 4:30pm. The NHS Health Checks are cardiovascular checks where you can find out your heart age, get your blood pressure, cholesterol, BMI and blood glucose levels (if eligible).

The event was very successful last year so to avoid disappointment, visit:

[www.somersethealthchecks.co.uk/axbridge-square](http://www.somersethealthchecks.co.uk/axbridge-square)

or call 01823 261794 to book your appointment.

Please make sure you read the eligibility criteria to check you are eligible before booking.

You can have an NHS Health Check if:

- you are aged between 40 and 74

- you have **not** been diagnosed with heart disease (including those medicated for low/high blood pressure, high cholesterol), diabetes, kidney disease, or had a stroke
- you have **not** had an NHS Health Check in the last 5 years
- you are a Somerset County Council resident or have a registered GP in Somerset County Council area

## Bristol Water roadworks

Council is aware of concerns about the state of the grass verges at Townsend following the pipeline installation. Bristol Water has said that making good of the roads will take place after completion and testing of the pipeline, and it is assumed that this will also apply to the grass verges and the Townsend island. The Town Clerk is contacting Bristol Water to ask for confirmation of this, and an indication of the likely time scale for final completion.

## Houlgate Way development

Members discussed the response from Sedgemoor District Council to its letter of complaint about the handling of this planning application and are still concerned about the process which seems to focus on accommodating the developer, with little response to issues raised by the Town Council.

Council also noted information from District Councillor Mrs Scott that Sedgemoor still intended to reclassify Axbridge as a Tier 2 settlement, and to work with North Somerset Council regarding housing provision and infrastructure improvements - which could result in additional housing provision in the north of the District.

The Clerk was delegated, in consultation with the Mayor and the Chairman/Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Licences Committee, to write a formal stage two letter of complaint regarding the process, and also to write a strong letter of objection to Sedgemoor District Council objecting to the intention to classify Axbridge as a Tier 2 settlement and to any suggestion of further additional housing from North Somerset being accommodated within the north of Sedgemoor.

## New Town Bailiff

The vacancy for the Town Bailiff has been filled by the appointment of Mr Peter Yusen to the post.

## Public Open Spaces Order

The final consultation from Sedgemoor regarding a Public Open Spaces Order has been received. The Order includes the exclusion of dogs from the Furlong Play Area and also a dogs on lead order for the Furlong Recreation Field.

## Townsend slip road

The Council has recently been advised by Somerset Highways that the earth mound on the eastbound

Townsend slip road was put in place as part of a safety improvement scheme. It was intended to slow down vehicles on approach to the junction by restricting the advance visibility. Somerset Highways stated that it did not obstruct the visibility at the junction. Members noted the response and advised that the ragwort at this location, and on surrounding verges, should be removed.

## High Street & West Street Parking and passing

Council noted the number of cars mounting the pavements to pass other vehicles in these streets. Drivers are asked to give way to oncoming vehicles rather than charging through and forcing others to mount the pavement.

Cars, and even larger vehicles are often parked illegally in these streets, partly blocking both the street and the pavement with consequent inconvenience to pedestrians and making it difficult for larger vehicles to get through. The traffic warden has been asked to monitor the area.

## Harvest Service

The annual Harvest Service is on Sun 10th September at 6.30pm in the Methodist Church, followed by coffee in the hall.

Contributions for Somewhere to Go would be appreciated (tinned and dry foodstuff, socks, underwear, basic household items for those moving into bedsit accommodation).

## Steps to Hillside

The steps on the north side of the bypass (opposite the old station building), going up to Hillside are uneven and so overgrown that the handrail is now inaccessible. The Town Maintenance Contractor will be asked to cut the foliage back.

## Overgrown foliage at Townsend

The Town Maintenance Contractor will be asked to cut back the overgrown and overhanging foliage in

the vicinity of the railings by the cyclepath at Townsend.

## Council Tax scam

Sedgemoor District Council is warning residents to be aware of Council Tax scammers who may offer you deals to reduce your payments. Please note these are not calls from Sedgemoor District Council or the Valuation Office, despite their phone number being very similar. Council Tax bands are set by the Valuation Office Agency and can only be changed under certain conditions. Details can be found at [www.gov.uk/council-tax-appeals](http://www.gov.uk/council-tax-appeals). You will not be charged for the service.

## Houlgate Way parking restrictions

The planned yellow lines have been put in place in Houlgate Way, with one short extension still to be done. Signs may still need to be put up in relation to these parking restrictions.

## Grant to Museum

Members considered a grant request from the museum towards the services they provided. It was agreed that a grant of £1,400, which had been allowed for in the budget, be awarded to the Axbridge and District Museum Trust.

## Other matters

Other matters raised or discussed by Council in July included:

- Cheddar Neighbourhood Plan
- Cross Lane improvements
- School Governors' report
- Double yellow lines outside The Pennings
- Allotment fencing
- Bins at the cemetery
- Visibility at Shute Shelve junction
- Notification of bus route diversions
- Suggestion for a passing place in Jubilee Road

**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 August meeting will be on Monday 21st August 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