



# OYEZ!

February 2018

*News from your Town Council*

## Civic Service

A successful, enjoyable and very well attended Civic Service was held on Sunday 25th February 2018 with the presentation of the Civic and Young Person's Awards.

Many compliments have been received and the Mayor was proud to represent Axbridge at this special event. She will be thanking those who had worked hard to make this such a great occasion.

## Neighbourhood Plan

The advertised presentation by the Neighbourhood Planning Group in the Town Hall on the 3rd March was cancelled because of the snow, but will now take place on the next Farmers' Market Day, 7th April. If you cannot get there then you will still be able to see the presentation materials as they will be on display in the Church during the following week beginning 9th April, and you will still be able to make feedback to the Group.

The results from the Group's earlier survey questionnaire can also be found at:

[www.axbridgeneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/survey-results](http://www.axbridgeneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/survey-results)

The Neighbourhood Planning Group has been working hard on taking the feedback from the town and turning it into policies that will form the basis of the Neighbourhood Plan. The proposed policies will be shown on the presentation materials on display, and it is important that as many residents as possible see them as the group are committed to making sure that they are reflecting the voice of the town.

## Council vacancies

Beverley Davies and Craig Walking have resigned as Town Councillors, due to other commitments.

Sedgemoor District Council has confirmed that no election has been requested, so the Council should now proceed to co-opt new councillors as soon as possible:

Application forms and details are available from the Town Clerk, the Post Office or at:

[www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk/council/cooption2018.pdf](http://www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk/council/cooption2018.pdf)

Applications should be submitted to the Town Clerk (*contact details overleaf*) by 12th March for consideration at the Council meeting on 19th March.

## Annual Assembly

This meeting, to which all residents are invited, will be held in the Town Hall at 8.00pm on Monday 12th March. The Town Council, the County Councillor, the District Councillor, the Police and the School Governor will give their reports. The meeting also gives the opportunity for local organisations to update residents on their activities. Dr Dolman has been invited to make a brief presentation on Community Wellbeing.

## Axbridge Museum

The Museum will re-open for the 2018 season on Friday 30th March, with an official opening ceremony on Saturday 31st March.

## Bristol Water pipeline

Bristol Water has confirmed that by the end of March they will have completed the testing of the pipe, made the connections between test sections and chlorinated the section of new water main between Cheddar and Winscombe. They hope to have completed the identified work before the end of March and the reinstatement of the Townsend roundabout could be done by mid-March. The Clerk will enquire when the by-pass will be resurfaced.

## Road closures

- **Meadow Street** will be closed on 19th March for 5 days whilst the footway works.
- **High Street** will be closed at a time not yet announced, to enable repairs to King John's Hunting Lodge.

## Broadband provision

Numerous responses have now been received from residents following requests from the Council about satisfaction levels on broadband availability. This has now given the Council sufficient comments to enable it to go back to BT to raise these issues on behalf of residents to help progress this matter.

## Axbridge Pageant

Council received a report from the Axbridge Pageant Association which is beginning the two-year period of planning and preparation towards the next production of the town's ten-yearly Axbridge Pageant. This will be performed three times over the August Bank Holiday weekend in 2020.

Over this year a number of events will be held with the aim of showing what the Pageant is, and some public meetings will be held to recruit people to serve on the management group, to take on the many backstage tasks and, most especially to join the cast of 500 who will re-enact the history of the town in The Square to audiences of 600.

The first Pageant was held in 1967 when the by-pass was opened. It was done again in 1970, and has been repeated every 10 years since, growing each time.

## Town maintenance contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor worked 20 hours during February 2018 on tasks including:

- repairing the allotment gate,
- removing litter and gully clearing in the car park
- clearing litter from the Furlong, hedge and grass verge
- tidying Back Lane and removing mud from roadway.

The contractor will be asked to repair the steps leading from the cycle path up to the viewing area, and to clean the town boundary markers.

## Highways & traffic

- Council received a petition in December regarding the speed of traffic in High Street and West Street. It is hoped that Somerset Highways will attend a site meeting to establish suitable traffic calming measures to address speeding throughout the town.
- Parking Services will be asked to patrol High Street, West Street and Starrs Close during evenings to deter illegal parking.

## Axbridge Town Trust

### 150 Club winners:

- 1st winning number (£50) = 55
- 2nd winning number (£35) = 142
- 3rd & 4th winning numbers (£25) = 44 and 3
- 5th & 6th winning numbers (£20) = 118 and 110

## Oyez distributors

Oyez is distributed to all homes in the town by a team of volunteers. We have at present a full team, but with no members in reserve. It would help to ensure that every home gets a copy on time if we had one or two additional volunteers willing to be on call to help with a delivery round if illness, holidays or other causes mean the usual volunteer is unavailable.

If you would be willing to join the team of volunteers in this way please contact the Town Clerk (*contact details below*)

## Other matters . . .

Other matters raised or discussed at Council in February include:

- The state of the cycleway below Racurium Lodge
- Cleaning of the bus shelters
- Street lights not working in St. Mary Street and High Street
- The state of the steps linking the cemetery to the cyclepath
- Repairs to the public conveniences
- Use of the concrete planters formerly in The Square
- Acquisition of land in Chestnut Avenue
- Purchase of a digital projector
- Trip hazard in The Square
- Graffiti on the Townsend bridge
- Sedgemoor Local Plan examination
- Dog issues on The Furlong

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 next meeting will be on Monday 19th March 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