



OYEZ!

May 2018

News from your Town Council

Axbridge Day

This year's Axbridge Day will be on Saturday 16th June. The Square and its access roads will be closed to traffic from 10am until 10pm.

There will be no Fun Day again this year, but it is planned to hold one next year, on The Furlong, on Saturday 13th July 2019.

Carnival

This year the Carnival Queen and Princesses will be chosen on Axbridge Day. The Carnival will be held on Saturday 22nd September 2018.

Slip road closure

Bristol Water will be closing the westbound slip road from the by-pass to Townsend for a about week from 18th June for repair of the surface. Residents' accesses off the slip road will continue to be useable during the works.

Library consultation

Councillor Corps gave council a brief update on this matter, and is in contact with Cheddar Parish Council and the Friends of Cheddar Library. Anyone still wishing to contribute to the consultation about the future of the Library should note that the process ends on June 13th. Until then the questionnaire can be found at:

www.somerset.gov.uk/librariesconsultation

Refuse and recycling

Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) has announced that every recycling site is now taking plastic food pots, tubs and trays - the rigid plastic containers for yoghurt, margarine, fruit and other foods - as well as all plastic bottles.

The plastic bottle and PTT skips will take black plastic food trays, but residents must:

- Remove all foil, film covers, and cardboard attached to or enclosing the PTT.
- Discard all lids, flip-caps and trigger-tops from plastic bottles.
- Rinse out food residues or other contents.

They must also exclude:

- Thin plastics, such as cling film, carrier bags, black sacks, or bubble wrap.
- Plastic plant or paint pots, with or without any contents.
- Other plastics, such as plastic toys, CD cases, garden furniture or car parts.

Mendip View development

This application has been granted permission for up to 20 dwellings subject to a S106 agreement to secure the provision of affordable housing.

Houlgate Way development

The application is still with the planning department for determination some three months after the final consultation deadline. Several surveys and assessments were uploaded to the website in March. Members expressed concern at the length of time being taken to determine this application.

Council resolved that the Clerk make further contact with the Planning Officer, expressing concern at the ongoing delay in determining this application (to be copied to the Chief Executive and Leader of Sedgemoor District Council) and report back to the Committee in due course.

The Museum

Members received a report on the Axbridge and District Museum Trust. This included an update on Arts Council Accreditation, the website and visitor numbers. A further report had been received following the May meeting updating on a lottery bid for work on the preservation and display of the Town Banners and Maces.

New volunteer custodians are always welcome.

Annual Report

Members received the Annual Report for 2017/18 and Agreed that the report be printed, sent to interested parties and circulated in booklet form with the June Oyez.

End of Year accounts

Members considered the End of Year Accounts showing all payments and receipts during the financial year to 31 st March 2018 and including the bank reconciliation statement. The end of year figure was £80,067.17

Council resolved that these Accounts be approved and signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk.

The future of Bristol Airport

Towards the end of 2017 Bristol Airport began a consultation about its future development.

Towards 2050 provides an update on the preparation of a Master Plan, including a summary of feedback from the previous consultation, the latest thinking, and ambitions for the future. Anyone wanting to contribute to the latest consultation about airport development should go to:

<https://www.bristolairportfuture.com>

Water fountain

It was suggested that members seek the provision of a drinking fountain from Bristol Water which could be sited in the Square (part of the Strawberry Line cycle

route). This would be better for the environment. Members welcomed the idea. The Highways Advisory Group would investigate this further.

Inconsiderate parking

Following recent problems concerns were raised in council about inconsiderate parking. Parking is at a premium in Axbridge and residents are asked always to park considerately, not to obstruct drives, pavements etc, or the passage of traffic. Please ensure when parking that adequate space is left for the unobstructed access by large emergency vehicles to every address in the town.

Grant request

The Town Council has received requests from the Town Trust for a grant towards the upkeep of the Town Hall and the planters. Council resolved that a grant of £3,640 be paid to the Town Trust towards the upkeep of the Town Hall - the first half of this payment (£1,820) being paid now and the second half in October 2018 and that the grant for the planters in the sum of £300 be made.

Strawberry Line

The works required to reinstate the Strawberry Line near Winscombe have been completed, and the route is now open.

Visitors using the Winscombe section will benefit from new surfacing in the Shute Shelve Tunnel along with new reflective white lining and cats eyes.

Bristol Water are also in the process of improving the lighting in the tunnel but for the time being pedestrians and cyclists are being asked to use lights while travelling through the tunnel.

The Willow Man

A campaign is being launched to secure the future of the iconic M5 Willow Man who strides alongside the motorway near junction 23 at Bridgwater. Created by artist Serena de la Hey in 2000 as part of The Year of the Artist, The Willow Man was conceived as a temporary structure and now nearly two decades on, it needs a complete rebuild as well as a fund for future maintenance.

Anyone interested in this project can find further information at:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/willow-man>

Axbridge Maces and Banners

The Mayor has received a letter from the Chairman of Axbridge Town Trust detailing the project to secure housing and display of the Maces and to restore the Banners. An application was being made to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Town Trust would welcome a letter of support from the Council. Members welcomed this project.

Other matters . . .

Other matters raised or discussed at Council in May include:

- PA testing of office & changing room equipment
- Bristol Airport Local Community Fund
- General Data Protection Regulations
- Provision & emptying of bins at the cemetery
- Proposal for an Axbridge Clean-up Day
- Renewal of insurance
- Somerset Association of Local Councils - membership renewal

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 18th June 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

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