



OYEZ!

July 2018

News from your Town Council

Traffic issues - Townsend & Cross

Council was recently updated on a series of meetings held to discuss the safety problems at the slip-road from the by-pass at Townsend and the Cross Lane/A38 junction at Cross. Meetings have involved the town council together with District Councillor Mrs Scott, County Councillor Taylor, Compton Bishop council, the Coffin Lane Group, James Heapey MP, a representative from Bristol Airport and officials from Somerset Highways.

Another near miss at Townsend was reported, and the importance of evidence was emphasised - Council is to investigate the possibility of a CCTV camera at Townsend. Members supported the introduction of a form to allow residents to report incidents at the Townsend junction, but would also advise residents to report incidents directly to the police and ask for a crime reference number, which could then be included on that form.

Cuts in Somerset County Council budgets clearly make improvements, which the town council would like to see, difficult to achieve. Discussion with Somerset Highways officers has led to suggestions for possible low cost improvements, but council is also trying to identify possible sources of additional funding possibly including the Hinkley Point Development Fund and Bristol Airport.

Whilst meeting Somerset Highways officers other traffic matters were raised again, including speeding in the narrow streets, markings in the Square, the grass verge in Old Church Road, etc.

Major planning matters

Cheddar: Lower New Road

Council has objected to a major application for 115 houses on the west side of Lower New Road in Cheddar. This is outside our area, but Council has objected to the application on the following grounds:

- access to the site does not appear to be in a reasonable position or of appropriate size for the number of vehicles which would use an estate of this size
- The increase of traffic in this already congested area which includes the bridge at Sharpham Road, Hythe Bow bridge on the dangerous and sharp corner to Wedmore, Station Road and the impact on the junctions at Upper New Road (by the petrol station), at Townsend, Axbridge and

at the Cross Lane/A38 junction (which are already of concern)

- Issues with pedestrian access exacerbated by the fact that the pedestrian access over the Sharpham Road bridge from an earlier development has still not been completed.

Cheddar: Yeo Valley site

Yeo Valley is planning to move operations to a new purpose built site in Highbridge, and to redevelop its Axbridge Road site. No planning application has been made yet, but outline proposals include up to 100 residential units, a care/retirement facility, retail use, nursery use, business use etc. Information about the outline proposals, and an opportunity to provide feedback can be found at:

www.yeovalleyconsultation.com

Axbridge: Mendip View

The application for planning permission for housing development at Mendip View, Cheddar Road has now been granted, subject to conditions including the provision of affordable homes.

Assistant to the Town Clerk

Miss C. Harris has now been appointed to the new post of Assistant to the Town Clerk, and will take up her post in August.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Planning Group are processing all the data collected through questionnaires or online survey earlier in the year, and more recently through traffic surveys. The survey results and other feedback are now available on the website at:

www.axbridgeneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/second-consultation-results

The Pageant

The Pageant Committee is in the process of setting up as a Charitable Organisation, and is considering making Heritage Lottery grant application to fund bringing together various film recordings of previous pageants.

The Furlong

The Town Maintenance Contractor will install a base to the youth shelter and tidy it up, and will put some topsoil by the goal post.

Complaints have been received regarding anti-social behaviour on the Furlong car park, and as a result the car park will shortly to be locked again at night by volunteers. The police have visited the area and will continue to monitor the situation.

Play area

- Funding for a replacement slide has been approved and the slide ordered.
- Council discussed options regarding a proposed swing seat and support was expressed for the Inclusive Boat Seat, which would fit on the existing frame, replacing a cradle swing which will be kept in storage. The Sports and Social Club

has agreed to fund a shortfall in the available budget. Members fully supported installing such a swing which can also be enjoyed by children with disabilities.

Public conveniences

Upgrading of the public conveniences is being considered. This would include deep cleaning, improved door furniture, painting the railings and making all cubicles unisex. Enquiries have been made to the Bristol Airport Diamond Fund about possible grant assistance for this project.

Museum

Council received a grant request from Axbridge & District Museum Trust. A sum of £1400 had been included in the budget for this and Council agreed to make this grant.

Allotments

There are now two vacant allotments available - anyone interested in renting an allotment should contact the Town Clerk (*contact details overleaf*).

Civic Service

The Civic Service next year will be held on Sunday 3rd March, not Sunday 24th February as originally planned. This change has been agreed in order to avoid the half-term holiday.

Town Maintenance Contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor worked 11 hours in June. Tasks carried out included:

- Litter picking in the car parks and Furlong
- Strimming and tidying up in the allotments and cemetery
- Hedge trimming & gully clearing in the car park

Rumble in the Jumble 2018

Axbridge is gearing up for its annual "Rumble In The Jumble"; the community event where residents set out their stalls and jumble hunters take to the streets in search of bargains. The event will take place from 10am

to 2pm on Saturday 25th August. There will be a fee of £10 per stall for stall holders (with options to use the town hall and other facilities if required). The event is raising money for Axbridge Pageant 2020.

Further information can be found at www.axbridgejumble.com or on the Rumble In The Jumble Axbridge facebook page.

Tour of Britain Cycle Race

A suggestion earlier this year that the Tour of Britain cycle race might come through Axbridge on the 4th September has proved incorrect. The route in this area will be down Shipham Gorge to the Magic Roundabout, then via Tweentown and up Cheddar Gorge. A map and timings of the Somerset section of the race can be found at:

<http://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stages/stage-three>

Summer weather hazards

Remember that the effects of long spells of hot weather can be hazardous to health, especially for vulnerable groups, such as the very young, the elderly and the seriously ill. Information and advice can be found at:

<http://www.somersetprepared.org.uk/hazard-advice/severe-weather/summer-weather/>

Refuse/recycling collection times

Recycling and rubbish collections will start daily at 6am from now on due to the high temperatures. Please ensure that bins and boxes are all out in time for the early start (and no earlier than the night before), and note that some collection times may change. The new start time will continue until cooler weather returns. Crews have been reminded to keep the noise down; apologies in advance for the sound of glass and cans.

Other matters . . .

Other matters raised or discussed in Council in July included:

- Financial monthly report
- Street lighting in the High Street
- Allotment tenancy agreement & rule book
- Tree survey

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 20th 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

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