



OYEZ!

September 2018

News from your Town Council

Sedgemoor Local Plan

Consultation on the proposed main modifications to the Sedgemoor Local Plan (2011-2032) began on the 28th August 2018, with any representations sought by 5pm on 10th October 2018. Despite the Council's earlier representations, Axbridge was still being designated as a Tier 2 settlement. Some alterations had been proposed in relation to the A38 and M5 junction. Members expressed concern that the volume of traffic leaving and exiting the M5 junctions was being exacerbated by the residential developments in the local area.

The Committee had considered this matter and agreed that the Council respond to point out that the 126 Sunday bus service has been withdrawn for the winter period and would now only operate on a seasonal basis, reinforcing that the limited public transport available is only suitable for leisure and not working purposes.

Sedgemoor Budget Consultation

Sedgemoor District Council wants residents to have their say on how Sedgemoor District Council should spend its proportion of the Council Tax in its annual budget consultation. The Sedgemoor budget cycle starts now, with the final decisions on budgets are taken in mid-February 2019.

The Council continues to work within a very tight budget and will be reviewing its services to make sure that every penny is spent wisely. SDC gets approximately 9p in the £ from each pound paid in council tax, the other 91p being split between Somerset County Council, the Police, Fire and Rescue services and Parish/Town councils.

To have your say complete a questionnaire - this is available online at the following:

www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/budgetconsultation

or for further information, or to request a questionnaire, please call 0300 303 7800

The consultation period will run until October 19, 2018.

Co-option of Councillor

There is a vacancy on the town council. Sedgemoor District Council has confirmed that no election has been requested, so the Council should now proceed to co-opt a new councillor 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/cooption_application_pack_SEPTEMBER2018.pdf

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

School admission arrangements

If your child is due to start school for the first time (ie. will be age 4 before 1st September 2019) or due to transfer to a junior, middle, secondary or upper school then it is very important you make school place applications on time. Deadlines for applications are:

- for primary admissions: 15th January 2019
- for secondary admissions: 31st October 2018

To download the primary or secondary booklet for parents, to make an on-line application or for further information:

go to www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions

or phone 0300 123 2224 if you require a paper application form or further advice.

Houlgate Way planning application

Council was updated on the response from Sedgemoor District Council's Planning Department on this application. Given the emerging policy position it was likely that the applicant would either withdraw and re-submit the application or convert/amend the current scheme, rather than the current application being formally determined. The Clerk has replied to reiterate previous comments made on the extraordinary length of time being taken to determine this application which far exceeds Government recommendations for determining applications and which, in the Town Council's opinion, should have been refused at the outset.

Council traffic form

Following meetings with local groups on improving road safety the council has asked residents to report collisions, near misses, speeding and other traffic incidents.

Despite local knowledge of many incidents at the Townsend junction, a lack of reporting to the police is hampering change, as the county council and police cannot verify the scale of the issue. To help gather information on incidents at Townsend and elsewhere in and around the town, the town council has launched its own online reporting form, which can be found at:

<http://www.bit.ly/ATCtrafficform>.

The council feels that the number of collisions and close calls at Townsend makes seeking a solution a major priority, but it is also keen to build a greater understanding of incidents elsewhere. Our own online reporting form will help everyone in Axbridge pass on information needed to show the scale of the problem.

Proposed Yeo Valley development

Yeo Valley has submitted an outline planning application for a mixed use redevelopment of its site in Axbridge Road, which is to close. This site is in Cheddar, but Axbridge Town Council is to carry out a consultation, at the full planning application stage, in line with policy on large planning applications.

The Council likes the concept of this application which would provide mixed use development and facilities on a brownfield site, but has objected to this application as there are no proposed improvements to the vehicular access and there are the following concerns:

- the increased traffic at the site junction itself,
- the impact on the highway network particularly at The Magic Roundabout, at Townsend junction and the A38/A371 junctions at Cross and Shute Shelve,
- the lack of pedestrian access,
- the need to improve the cycle route access.

126 bus & A371 diversion

As reported last month the A371 through Draycott and Rodney Stoke will be closed for about 12 weeks from 1st October. This will involve the diversion of the 126 bus route, which from Cheddar will operate via Wedmore and Panborough to Wells, possibly adding up to 30 minutes to the journey time.

Reporting anti-social behaviour

Sedgemoor District Council has a 24 hour non-emergency Anti Social Behaviour Hotline (Tel: 0800 298 2009) as well as the opportunity to submit a report electronically. These methods should only be used where the ASB incident is NOT an emergency, should NOT require Police attention, should NOT require immediate response & should NOT be in progress

This is an intelligence gathering system, all reports are entered onto the ASB database to help agencies tackle ASB together. Examples of things you could report are noise nuisance, ongoing low-level neighbourhood issues, joyriding, littering, flytipping, graffiti, etc.

For all other reports of anti-social behaviour, please

contact Avon and Somerset Constabulary by telephoning 101, or in an emergency 999. If you are a registered social landlord tenant, you may wish to contact your housing provider to discuss the matter with them.

Town Maintenance Contractor

The Town Maintenance Contractor worked 7.5 hours in August including:

- litter picking on the Furlong and car park, strimming, hedge trimming in the car park and clearing the gullies.
- strimming and tidying up at the allotments and cemetery
- removing and disposing of rubbish from the church bin and cemetery bin
- removing the car park sign, fixing a desk and fitting door security.

The Museum

The pageant panels have been a popular temporary exhibition and will remain in place until the end of the season on 31st October 2018. The museum looks good after its refurbishment and a new guide book is available.

Postal sorting office

The Clerk wrote to the Post Office to support the retention of the sorting office in Axbridge. Others, including James Heapey MP, also wrote. Council was pleased to note that the Post Office has refused the request made by Royal Mail to remove the mail work from Axbridge, and at the present time at least the facility will remain here.

Other matters . . .

Other matters raised or discussed in Council in August included:

- £50 donation to Weston Hospice Care
- Grant request from Axbridge Town Trust
- Relocation of benches from the picnic area
- Allotment tenancy and rule book
- Installation of bins at the cemetery
- Repairs & new equipment 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 15th October 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