



OYEZ!

February 2019

News from your Town Council

Church fete

Good News! After the disappointment of no-fete in 2018, the Church Fete is now back in the diary for 2019 --- on Saturday, 15 June in the Garden of The Court, St Mary's Street by courtesy of Mr & Mrs Jenkins.

Although organised by Church Members and Friends, the Fete is an occasion for the whole Axbridge community, needing many hands to ensure its success. Volunteers from across the community will be welcome, to be involved in the organisation and/or to help on the day.

If you are ready and able to help, please contact Jan Rabbitts at janrabbitts@aol.co.uk (01934 732768) or Tony Strange at anthonyestrangle@gmail.com (01934 733783).

Temporary closure of cycle path

The Axbridge entrance to the Axbridge-Cheddar section of the Strawberry Line will be closed for three (Monday to Wednesday 25th-27th March) days for resurfacing of the unsafe and badly eroded downhill section at the start. Cycle and walking access to Cheddar will still be available via the Reservoir track.

Annual Assembly

This meeting, to which all residents are invited, will be held in the Town Hall at 8.00pm on Monday 11th 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, and this time this will include information on the Men's Shed and the new Council website.

Civic Service

A very successful and well-attended Civic Service was held in St John's Church on Sunday 3rd March when the annual Civic Award was presented to David Parkin and the Youth Awards were presented to Bettine Harris and to Nina Tyrrell.

Council membership

Councillor Gould has ceased to be a member of the Council, leaving a vacancy. However it is only a short time before full council elections which are due in May, so the vacancy will be filled as part of that election process.

Launching the Pageant

It is now only 18 months until rehearsals begin for the next performance of Axbridge's ten yearly Pageant re-enacting the history of the town. The time has come to start recruiting the 500 or more residents who will take part, either as performers (*who do not need to be actors*) or behind the scenes in many sorts of support roles.

Timings of two launch events are shown on the enclosed leaflet. The Exhibition gives some idea of what the Pageant is like (many people having moved here in the last ten years may have little idea what the Pageant is like). The Presentation gives an opportunity to ask questions, to find out what is to happen over the next 18 months, and sign up to take part.

Houlgate Way planning application

Council resolved that the Clerk contact Sedgemoor District Council to reiterate its concerns at the delay in progressing the planning application for residential development south of Houlgate Way, and seeking a further explanation and that this action be noted in Oyez and the website, should any residents wish to raise similar concerns with the planning authority.

Bloor Homes Holwell Lane

Sedgemoor District Council has been advised that Axbridge Town Council objects to this application for a new housing development off Holwell Lane in Cheddar on the following grounds:-

- the proposed development is in direct contravention of Cheddar's Neighbourhood Plan
- there are highways and traffic concerns including increased traffic which will exacerbate already congested junctions and the speed of traffic
- the impact of the proposed development on the availability of existing amenity space
- the visual impact of the development particularly from the reservoir and from the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- the development will result in ribbon development which the Town Council opposes - wishing to retain the physical distinction between Axbridge and its adjacent villages.

Yeo Valley planning application

Members had received an update from the applicant on the proposed site access and transport arrangements, following the concerns raised earlier by the Town Council. The Council appreciated the applicant's efforts but did not consider that there were significant changes to alleviate the the Council's concerns. Further consultation is taking place on this application with comments due by 18th March.

Town maintenance contractor

The maintenance contractor worked 18 hours in January, and carried out tasks including:

- Litter picking in the Cemetery, Furlong, car parks and some other areas
- Clearing gullies and hedge work
- Re-siting the bench from the lay-by to the allotments
- Moving the salt bin to Fennel Lane and installing new bin
- Removing waste and trimming the hedge along the cycle path
- Repairing the steps to the viewpoint

Calls for volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help with Community Speedwatch, Axbridge Museum and the Sea Cadets. Anyone interested in helping can obtain contact details from the Town Clerk (*phone number below*)

Axbridge Fun Day

The Axbridge Sports & Social Club is working on plans for an Axbridge Fun Day to be held in July.

126 bus Sunday service

The 126 bus will begin Sunday services again for the summer on Sunday 31st March.

Highways winter maintenance

The following points were raised at the Highways Advisory Group meeting:

- Locations were suggested at either end of Town for two new salt bins, if required
- It is hoped that salting of the main route through Axbridge would be reinstated
- The current dumpy bags would remain in situ until April 2019.

- The Town Maintenance Contractor would be asked to look at the new salt bin as there appeared to be an issue with the lid & loading.

Reporting potholes

Contact Somerset CC Roads and Transport Team
Phone: 0300 123 2224

Opening Hours: Monday 8am to 6pm, Tuesday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Saturday and Sunday closed.

If there is an urgent problem outside these hours and it is a risk to public safety please phone the Police on 101.

Elections

There will be Town Council elections in May. Anyone interested in standing please note that the Notice of Election will be posted by 26th March and must be returned to Sedgemoor Council by 4pm on 3rd April. Further information can be obtained from the Town Clerk (*phone number below*).

Other matters . . .

Other matters raised or discussed in Council in February included:

- Dementia Friendly Initiative
- Litter on the by-pass
- The Clubs Fair ((Town Hall, May 4th)
- Proposed diversion of footpath in Chestnut Avenue
- Launch of new Council Website
- Mapping local infrastructure
- Risk Assessment & Management
- Width of graves in the cemetery
- A flood prevention fund for Somerset farmers
- Refurbishing of the public conveniences
- Resurfacing of the Townsend sliproad (taking 10 weekdays from 18th March)

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 held in the Town Hall at 7.30pm, normally on the 3rd Monday of each month.
The March meeting will be on Monday 18th March.***

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