



Credition Town Council

Newsletter

January - March 2016

Working Together

This edition focuses on Credition's teamwork.

What A Night!

What better way to demonstrate the fantastic community spirit that is integral to Credition than to witness everyone coming together for the Fairy Tale *Christmas in Credition* Parade and Lights Switch-on. Despite the inclement weather on Friday 27th November 2015, hundreds of you turned out in your fairy tale costumes to join in the Parade and to see Credition's Christmas lights switched on - with the help of fairy dust and a little magic! It could not have happened without the selfless people who volunteered their time, energy and enthusiasm and the generosity of local businesses who sponsored the event, you know who you are, the list is just too long to print in this newsletter! We would also like to say thank you to our Star Sponsors, Credition Chamber of Commerce, Credition Dairy, Create Storage, Hedgerow Print, Credition Traders Association, Graphic and Shakspeare Editorial. Please go to the *Christmas in Credition* Facebook page at www.facebook.com/christmasincredition or the Town Council's website at www.credition.gov.uk to see our thank you list and pictures from the night.



Photos courtesy of Credition Courier

Credition Cares About Climate Change

Over 200 people in Credition visited the Town Square, on Saturday 28th November, to show the world they cared about climate change. The Credition Climate Challenge, organised by Sustainable Credition, was held to support the upcoming 21st Climate Change Conference in Paris.



Over 90 people formed a giant green heart. (Photo courtesy of Sustainable Credition)

The event showcased 29 organisations, including businesses, schools and churches who made pledges to reduce their carbon footprint. These included, using low-energy lightbulbs, minimising travel, paperless billing, sourcing products locally, reducing the use of chemicals and recycling waste. On the day, people were also asked to make their own personal commitments to tackling climate challenge.

To see further details about the event and the pledges made please go to Sustainable Credition's website at www.sustainablecredition.org.uk

Loss of Local Services

The Town Council is negotiating with Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) regarding the proposed closure of its CREDITON Office. Firstly, the Town Council would like to make it very clear that it wholeheartedly objects to the loss of this invaluable service. Whilst the Town Council has been campaigning hard to retain it, it would appear the closure will be happening and the service will be lost from



1st April 2016. In view of this, the Town Council is trying to mitigate against the loss of the service by asking MDDC to, at the very least, provide weekly surgeries for residents covering benefits and housing etc. Please be assured, the Town Council will remain at the Market Street offices and will do its best to signpost you during the difficult transition period. Over the next few months, we will keep you updated on any developments via the Town Council website and Facebook pages.



Forward Thinking!

Over the last few years the Town Council's remit within the Town has grown considerably and this is partly due to funding cuts imposed by government on the District and County Councils, as well as an appetite to positively change the CREDITON environment. As the remits of the District and County Councils shrink the Town Council's grows. Consequently, the Town Council is now responsible for keeping the public toilets open, weed killing, highway grass verge cutting, funding youth projects, colouring dual use loading bays, the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan, Christmas in CREDITON and Floral CREDITON to name but a few. To continue to do this the Council needs a clear focus and so will be devising a five year strategic plan. The plan will outline what the Council will be doing to implement improvements, deal with changes and influence how CREDITON develops over the next five years and beyond. It will include a range of aims and objectives, many of which will interlink and influence the decisions the Council will make and the budget moving forward.

You will notice that these new responsibilities embraced by the Town Council do come with associated costs. In order to meet these additional costs it has been necessary for the town's precept to be increased. The precept is a sum of money collected each year through your council tax. From 1st April 2016 the precept collected from a Band D property in CREDITON will be £74.23 for the year, which is £1.43 per week.

Preserving Public Open Spaces

Preserving public open spaces is really important to the Town Council, so when it heard that Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) were looking at closing four play areas in CREDITON, it realised that something had to be done. Although the play areas in question do not have any play equipment in them, they are important public open spaces used by the community, so it's important they remain that way. Encouraged by the community help and support received at the Peoples Park Wildlife Area, and the transformation this area of land has undergone, the Town Council has agreed to lease the play areas at Fulda Crescent, Greenways and Spinningpath Gardens from MDDC for the next 25 years. The fourth area at Beech Park will remain open.



A New Year Message from the Mayor

I look back at 2015 with a mixture of emotions from anticipation, fulfilment and satisfaction.

This year's Christmas in Crediton Parade was a great success despite the weather. It typified a town where people pull together.

Although it seems we are looking towards a future of continued "austerity" I feel that Crediton is upbeat, positive and looking forward to the challenges put before it. In this leap year we have an extra day to get it right. Although the cutting of non-statutory services from the higher councils will bite even deeper, Crediton Town Council will meet these challenges with resolution and determination.

We have again made an increase in the precept which means that we shall all have to pay a little more but we feel confident that the town is behind us in our quest to maintain standards.

At this time of families coming together let us think of those people who spend most of their time on their own, and of those less fortunate than ourselves. Let us be thankful that we live in a wonderful town and look forward to a bright 2016.

Frank Letch, Mayor of Crediton



Crediton Neighbourhood Plan

Over the last few months the Steering Group has been revising the aims and objectives for the plan, to reflect views expressed in our survey work in Spring 2015. This is proving trickier than it sounds: the aims and objectives must relate to planning. Some community

aspirations can be achieved or supported through planning policies but others can't. Where aims and objectives clearly relate to planning policies, the policies must be written in a way which will be acceptable to a planning inspector. Some of you reading this may not be surprised to learn that language which seems clear enough to us is not clear to a professional planner – and vice versa!

We are keeping pace with the district Local Plan, now due for adoption at the end of 2016. This has given us extra time to look at building design and biodiversity in Crediton among other things. More details can be found on the website at www.CreditonNP.co.uk.



Youth Matters!



Since the closure of the Devon County Council Youth Service in October 2014, Lauren Strand, Youth worker at Crediton Methodist Church, has been working hard to provide open access youth drop-in sessions for young people in the town.

With the funding provided by the Town Council (£4,000), Crediton Methodist Church advertised for, interviewed and employed two sessional workers to support the running of two 'youth café' sessions which run on a Monday from 3.30 - 5.00 pm, and a Wednesday evening, 7.00 - 8.30 pm. The focus is now on boosting numbers and the diversity of this group through publicity and encouraging current members to bring friends. In the New Year young people in the town will be asked to complete a survey about what they do, where they go and what they would like in the town for the future. This information will help shape the future services provided.

To raise awareness of activities available to young people in the town, Lauren will be working with PCSO Becky Tanner to produce a brochure which will contain information on all organisations and groups offering activities to young people in Crediton. All QE pupils will receive a copy, and it is hoped shops in the town will also be willing to have them available.

Jockey Hill Fingerpost

The Town Council would like to say a big thank you to resident Martin Binks who has very kindly and generously given up his time to restore the Jockey Hill Fingerpost. We think he has done a fantastic job!



Photo courtesy of Crediton Courier

It's Your Neighbourhood

October saw the presentation of the RHS *It's Your Neighbourhood* Awards. This year, Crediton really pulled out the stops with 18



entries from groups and organisations representing all areas of the community. Here they are receiving their certificates! Contact Councillor Mike Szabo to enter next year.

Road Closure

In January 2016, South West Water will be undertaking necessary remedial works to the sewage system in Crediton. Where possible, these works will be carried out under temporary traffic lights; however, on 25th January the High Street will close to traffic for up to 4 weeks. Diversions will be in place. For further updates, please see the Town Council website at www.crediton.gov.uk.

Dates for your diary

January

2nd & 16th Farmers' Market Crediton Town Square
19th Crediton Town Council meeting 7.00 pm
 Council Chamber, Market Street

February

6th & 20th Farmers' Market Crediton Town Square
16th Crediton Town Council meeting 7.00 pm
 Council Chamber, Market Street

20th

Sustainable Crediton, 2016 Seed Share

11.00 - 2.00 pm, Old Town Hall

March

5th & 19th 9th

Farmers' Market Crediton Town Square
Annual Town Meeting 7.00 pm Council Chamber,
 Market Street

15th

Crediton Town Council meeting 7.00 pm Council
 Chamber, Market Street

Crediton Town Councillors - Boniface Ward

Frank Letch (Mayor & Chairman)	2 Butt Parks, Crediton, EX17 3HE	01363 775739
Joyce Harris (Deputy Mayor)	5 Charlotte Street, Crediton EX17 3BB	01363 775221
John Downes	Blagdon House, Blagdon, EX17 1EH	01363 774267
Nick Way	Westwood House, Westwood, EX17 3PE	01363 777903
Dan Webb	12 Jocelyn Mead, Crediton, EX17 2EU	07479 469700
Andi Wyer	3 Glen Creedy Court, Crediton, EX17 1GD	01363 777160

Crediton Town Councillors - Lawrence Ward

Liz Brookes-Hocking	Oliver House, 7 North Street, Crediton, EX17 2BT	01363 774562
Bill Dixon	1 Hawthorn Road, Crediton, EX17 2DF	01363 772176
Anne Hughes	5 Court Orchard, Newton St Cyres, EX5 5BJ	01392 851527
Heather Sansom	20 Redvers House, Crediton, EX17 3AW	01363 775455
Mike Szabo	9 Alexandra Way, Crediton, EX17 2EA	01363 775255
Jade Walters	Ground Floor Flat 1, 7 Union Road, Crediton, EX17 3AW	01363 774317
Clare Dalley (Town Clerk)	Council Offices, Market Street, Crediton, EX17 2BN E-mail: townclerk@crediton.gov.uk	01363 773717

Useful Contacts

Mid Devon District Council	01884 244636 (Crediton)	www.middevon.gov.uk	District & County Councillors	
Devon County Council	0845 155 1015	www.devon.gov.uk	John Downes (District)	01363 774267
Crediton Library	01363 772578		Bob Wright (District)	01363 773566
Citizens Advice Bureau	01884 244630		Frank Letch (District)	01363 775739
Crediton Hospital	01363 775588		Nick Way (District & County)	01363 777903
Social Services	0845 155 1015			