



# CREDITON TOWN COUNCIL

## A message from Cllr Frank Letch, Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council

After yet another severe winter Crediton's roads were as full of potholes as the year before. The town council and town clerk pressed Devon County Council's highways department to fill them in as quickly as possible. The first wave of potholes was repaired but there are still many potholes around the town. Fortunately the highways engineer has been around looking at the problems and we are confident that soon all remaining potholes will be filled.

Early in the year it was my pleasure to go along to the Congregational Church for the launching of "Journey", a small group of counsellors who were going to offer their services for those people who cannot normally afford counselling. This is yet another example of the caring side of Crediton.

As spring and then summer approach I hope that visitors to Crediton and its residents will appreciate the efforts and planning of the town council's Floral Working Group. Its members are drawn from town councillors and members of the public and it is funded from the town council's budget with the help of grant aid, sponsorship and contributions from our partners. This year, for the first time, the group will be helping to co-ordinate the planting schemes for all three providers (Chamber of Commerce, the Town Council and Mid Devon District Council). It is planned to enhance the town entrances, to have the High Street a blaze of colour and the town square looking seasonally floral.

April the 12th will see the mayor's reception, which will again be held in the Boniface Centre. A few people have approached me to ask if this reception is not an extravagance at a time of severe economic struggle. This reception is my chance, on behalf of the town council and our community, to thank the many people, charities and organizations that help make Crediton the pleasant town it is.

May the 5th is a very important day for the town; this is Election Day. The people of Crediton will be voting for their 12 town councillors, the four district councillors and also voting in the referendum on the proposed new voting system. It is very important that people cast their vote because achieving a full electoral mandate gives councillors the confidence they need to make decisions that are truly representative. I hope we have a good number of candidates putting themselves forward so that voters have a real choice. Voting is the best way of making your feelings known and may help the council to progress its work to maintain the quality of life that we enjoy in our lovely town.



Spring planting outside the bowling clubhouse in Newcombes Meadow

Useful Contacts			
<b>Mid Devon District Council</b>	01884 255255 (Tiverton)	www.middevon.gov.uk	<b>District &amp; County Councillors</b>
<b>Devon County Council</b>	0845 1551015	www.devon.gov.uk	
Credition Library	01363 772578		John Downes (District) 01363 774267
Citizens Advice Bureau	01363 778410		Bob Wright (District) 01363 773566
Credition Hospital	01363 775588		David Nation (District) 01363 774441
Social Services	0845 155015		Nick Way (District & County) 01363 777903
			<b>Non-Urgent Police Enquiries/Reports</b> 08452 777444

MEETING SCHEDULE 2011		
Meeting Dates	General Purposes	Town Council
June	7	21
July	5	26
August	No Meeting	No Meeting
September	6	20
October	4	18
November	8	22
December	No Meeting	13

Meeting Agendas are posted on the Town Council Notice Board outside the Council Offices in Market Street.

Up to 30 minutes is set aside at the beginning of each meeting for questions to be put by members of the public. A Public Question Time leaflet is available from the Town Council Office.

The Council is registered under the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts and will make certain information available for public inspection.

The Council has taken all necessary steps to comply with the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

Annual Town Meeting will take place at the Old Town Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

### Local Council Elections 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011

CREDITON TOWN COUNCILLORS					
BONIFACE WARD			LAWRENCE WARD		
Joyce Harris	5 Charlotte Street Credition, EX17 3BB	775221	Richard Adams	Lower Spencecombe Credition, EX17 5BT	84165
Anne Hughes	11 Newcombes Credition, EX17 2AR	776114	Liz Brookes-Hocking	Oliver House, 7 North Street Credition, EX17 2BT	774562
Frank Letch	2 Butts Parks Credition, EX17 3HE	775739	Peter Finnegan	94 Westernlea Credition, EX17 3JE	773012
Walter Brown	20 Prince of Wales Road Credition, EX17 2AG	774913	David Nation	3 George Hill Credition, EX17 2DT	774441
Nick Way	Westwood House Westwood, Credition, EX17 3PE	777903	Bob Wright	3 Okefield Ridge, Credition, EX17 2EG	773566
John Downes	Blagdon House, Blagdon Credition, EX17 1EH	774267	Tom Connell	Flat 1, Market Square House, Market Street, Credition, EX17 2EX	775851
<b>Town Mayor &amp; Chairman</b>		Frank Letch	Council Offices Market Street Credition EX17 3BN Telephone: 01363 773717 Email: townclerk@crediton.gov.uk Web: www.crediton.gov.uk		
<b>Deputy Town Mayor &amp; Vice Chairman</b>		Joyce Harris			
<b>Town Clerk</b>	Martin Maggs				
OFFICE HOURS TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS 9.30AM-12.30PM & 2.00PM-4.00PM At other times by appointment only					

Newsletter April - June 2011

## *The Red House – some support-worker time saved*

The Red House at the west end of the High Street provides a small number of units of accommodation for young people who need to learn to lead independent lives in the community. It is run by Westcountry and Signpost Housing Associations with financial support from Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council.

For the last few years the funding from the local authorities has been sufficient to provide a full-time support worker. In the past, problems have occurred in the local area and the support worker is seen by many as being an essential part of the successful running of this housing provision for young people.

Changes to local authority budgets have put future funding for this project under close scrutiny. Following concerns from local councillors, discussions took place with the tenants and their support worker and subsequently senior officers from the county and district councils were contacted as well as the local MP.

As a result, a new funding package has been put together which will allow the support worker to continue for up to three days a week. However, the proposed service is still less than previously existed.

The town council will continue to keep in touch with The Red House as its success is important to the local community.

## *South West in Bloom – coming to Crediton?*

It's many years since Crediton took part in the regional section of the Britain in Bloom competition run by the Royal Horticultural Society. The three parts of the competition are horticulture, environment and community – it's not just a question of having the biggest and best floral displays in obvious public areas.

Over the last few years the town council's Floral Crediton Working Group has been improving the floral displays and other planting throughout the town from its entrances to the main shopping areas. The council is now considering entering the competition again and it will certainly give the Working Group something to aim for.



The last boulder was placed on the A377 roundabout earlier this year to complete the landscaping and planting.

Floral decoration and improvement to the environment are the parts of the town council's Town Plan that receive the most enthusiastic and consistent support from local people so we are confident that further improvements will be welcomed throughout the town.

As the seasons progress the new plants on the roundabouts will fill out and give colour throughout the year.



## *Pot holes – ongoing repairs*

The town mayor has mentioned the continuing problem in his message. Since January 2010, 200,000 potholes have been filled across Devon. The county has received extra funds to help deal with the damage caused to the road infrastructure by last winter's severe weather and this funding will enable further repairs.

## *In brief...*

- **The Farmer's market – more markets this summer!** For an experimental period of three months there will be an extra Farmers Market on the third Friday of April, May and July. In June the town square was already booked by....
- **Crediton Arts Centre – Summer in the Square!** The Arts Centre is organising a whole host of events in June, beginning with the Big Sunday Lunch on 5th June. In the following week the auditorium will be constructed on the square and the next two weeks will see a variety of music and performance events from local youth groups, schools, choirs and bands. The events culminate with *The Shaughraun* by Dion Boucicault which will be performed over four nights from Wednesday 22nd to Saturday 25th June – so get ready to join in, get your feet tapping, watch the fun and appreciate the talents of the town.
- **The Annual Town Meeting ... Tuesday, June 14th** This is your chance to raise any town matters that you think are important and to keep up to date with current and future plans for the town. Please contact the town clerk for details on how to raise issues at the meeting and take an active part in the future of the town.
- **Plans for People's Park are progressing ...** Council officers and an architect are helping to develop ideas. Anyone from the local community who would like to be involved is invited to contact the town clerk.
- **Crediton Traffic Action Group AGM** Wednesday 18th May, 7.30 at the Rugby Club. To update on the current situation with road planning in Crediton and to look at the role for CTAG as plans progress.



Fresh vegetables at the Farmers Market