

# CREDITON TOWN COUNCIL

## Annual Report from Cllr Frank Letch, Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council

The past year has seen the country enter into a new government which has brought with it its major policy of cutting expenditure which has filtered down to county, district and town council level. I'm pleased to report that the Town Council has again been able to deliver a 0% increase in council tax. The encouraging thing about this is that the Council has been able to maintain its previous high level of service to the town.

The High Street has again been an indicator of the nation's problems. Several businesses have remained closed for a considerable time. Others have changed hands and we must praise the owners for their courage and commitment to the town. We just hope that their businesses flourish because a vibrant High Street means a lively and viable town. There have been several shops opened around the town square. The town square has been slightly better used in the past 12 months partly because of the efforts of the Crediton Arts Centre which again intends to organise a series of events during the summer. The Town Council was pleased to provide additional financial support.

The town council's Floral Crediton Working Group, chaired by Councillor Anne Hughes, has again put in a stunning effort of cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and Mid Devon District Council to make the High Street and town entrances look attractive and colourful. Their efforts have been so successful that a Britain in Bloom representative, whilst driving through the town last year suggested that we should enter Southwest in Bloom. The floral working group has taken on this daunting challenge. This will hopefully draw together several groups within the town because the competition is really about social pride in your town and not just pretty gardens.

Another group that has been active is the Peoples Park & Scout Memorial Garden Working Group. The group is looking to re-landscape the garden to include access for those with mobility problems. The Town Clerk has been instrumental in applying for significant funding to progress the group's plans.



Volunteer members of the scouting movement tidying the Scout Memorial Gardens at Peoples Park.  
© Crediton Scout Movement

This year a new Policy and Forward Planning Working Group has been formed to draw together the activities of the previous Town Plan Working Group and the many transport issues, to allow the Town Council to formulate a coherent policy across a plethora of issues. This group is being chaired by Councillor Liz Brookes-Hocking.

As Town Mayor I have continued to have surgeries two days every month. I spend an hour at the Farmers' Market and this has proved most successful. Because of the relaxed atmosphere and good weather (I jest not, we had no rain on any Saturday!), many people have come up to talk about the town and to make suggestions for improvements. The main areas of concern have been the bus service to the town, which has been fairly drastically cut, and the state of the roads and traffic. We have still not resolved Crediton's perennial problem of parking! The town councillors would like to see Mid Devon District Council allow free parking at St Saviours Way car park on Saturdays because this would obviously help the High Street shops. They can do it before Christmas so why not all year round? The Town Council would like to see the district council take a more imaginative look at parking both on street and in its car parks.

This May saw local elections taking place but sadly there insufficient candidates for a fully contested election. Several long-standing councillors had decided not to stand again and we were left with three vacancies. The Town Council has now successfully co-opted new councillors to fill these vacancies which will to bring us up to full strength. I am sure that all the new councillors will prove to be excellent, hard working and committed community representatives.

Frank Letch  
Chairman and Town Mayor Crediton Town Council

### 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	John Downes (District)	01363 774267
Crediton Library	01363 772578		Bob Wright (District)	01363 773566
Citizens Advice Bureau	01363 778410		Martin Binks (District)	01363 774895
Crediton Hospital	01363 775588		Nick Way (District & County)	01363 777903
Social Services	0845 1551015		<b>Non-Urgent Police Enquiries/Reports</b>	
			08452 777444	

### MEETING SCHEDULE 2011—2012

Meeting Dates	General Purposes	Town Council	
	Tuesday	Tuesday	Meeting Agendas are posted on the Town Council Notice Board outside the Council Offices in Market Street. Meetings start at 7.00pm and are held in the Council Chamber unless otherwise indicated.
July	5	26	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.
August	No Meeting	No Meeting	
September	6	20	The Council is registered under the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts and will make certain information available for public inspection.
October	4	18	
November	8	22	
December	No Meeting	13	The Council has taken all necessary steps to comply with the Code of Conduct for Councillors.
January	No Meeting	24	
February	7	21	The Annual Town Meeting 2012 will take place at the Old Town Hall on 17 April at 7.00pm.
March	6	20	
April	3	24	
May	15	29 AGM	

### CREDITON TOWN COUNCILLORS

BONIFACE WARD			LAWRENCE WARD		
Joyce Harris	5 Charlotte Street Crediton, EX17 3BB	775221	Richard Adams	Lower Spencecombe Crediton, EX17 5BT	84165
Anne Hughes	11 Newcombes Crediton, EX17 2AR	776114	Liz Brookes-Hocking	Oliver House, 7 North Street Crediton, EX17 2BT	774562
Frank Letch	2 Butts Parks Crediton, EX17 3HE	775739	Tom Connell	Flat 1, Market Square House, The Burrowe, Crediton, EX17 2EX	775690
Ashley Leighton Plom	29 Saxon Close Crediton, EX17 3DF	773410	Mike Szabo	9 Alexandra Way Crediton, EX17 2EA	775255
Nick Way	Westwood House Westwood, Crediton, EX17 3PE	777903	Laura Conyngham	26 Old Tiverton Road, Crediton, EX17 1EG	773000
John Downes	Blagdon House, Blagdon Crediton, EX17 1EH	774267	Bill Dixon	1 Hawthorn Road, Crediton, EX17 2DF	772176

<b>Town Mayor &amp; Chairman</b>	Frank Letch	Council Offices Market Street Crediton 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



Annual Report & Newsletter July - Sept 2011

## It's bloom time for CREDITON

After a break of several years, CREDITON has again entered the Britain in Bloom competition. The town received awards in the past. Judging day is Monday, July 18, and it is hoped that by then everyone will have helped to make the town look good - and that it will stay that way. Mid Devon District Council will be giving the town a "big clean" near the end of June and it is hoped people will help to maintain this. Anyone who can help with some of the jobs after that is asked to contact CREDITON Town Council.



Sponsors of the Town Square Flower Tower © Alan Quick, CREDITON Country Courier

A small group has been meeting through the spring to bring everything together for judging day. Floral CREDITON Working Group comprises members of the town council, CREDITON Chamber of Commerce and others. Its chairman is town council member, Cllr Anne Hughes. She explained that CREDITON's current entry in the Britain in Bloom competition came about because a judge for the competition happened to be driving through CREDITON last year, saw the floral displays, and suggested it took part.

"This is a wonderful chance for the town to come together as a community and show the judges what CREDITON is all about, and for everyone in the town to work together," she said. "I hope that as many members of the community as possible will work together to make this a time to remember. I intend to organise a meeting of volunteers to see what needs to be done, so if anyone is interested in helping, contact me at the Council Offices."

These are on Market Street, CREDITON, past the Post Office and two new shops, telephone 01363 773717 or email townclerk@crediton.gov.uk



Winners of the Floral CREDITON Competition 2010  
© Sue Read, CREDITON Country Courier

## Floral CREDITON Competition

Each year CREDITON Town Council organises its own Floral CREDITON competition. Judging this year will be on 16 July. Last date for entries is 8 July. Entry forms are available at the Council Offices and at the CREDITON

Courier office at 102 High Street (near The Book Shop), as well as at the Farmers' Markets and other places in town.

Cllr Hughes said there were more categories this year. "This is a great opportunity for all keen gardeners to show off their hard work. I see so many beautiful floral displays in and around the town, and I wish they would all enter," she said.

Categories are for the best kept small garden or patio, formal large garden, natural large garden, family garden or best commercial premises (town wide).



One of the sponsors of Floral CREDITON 2011 - Ashtons Coffee Lounge.

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Both these articles are courtesy of CREDITON Country Courier



## CREDITON TOWN COUNCIL

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2011

Income and Expenditure Account	2010	2011
<b>Income</b>		
Precept	£115,000.00	£115,000.00
Interest	£93.59	£104.82
People's Park Charity	£53.81	£47.74
Allotments	£1,972.81	£2,067.40
Other Receipts	£437.72	£6,467.81
Parish Paths Project	£910.00	£0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£118,467.93</b>	<b>£123,687.77</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Administration	£10,935.80	£10,947.34
Salaries	£56,451.68	£61,037.07
Democracy, Councillors & Elections	£3,592.47	£3,333.73
Allotments	£1,299.31	£1,652.38
Section 137 Payments	£3,555.00	£7,205.00
Capital Expenditure	£1,906.03	£140.00
Other Expenditure	£16,461.10	£19,908.94
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£94,201.39</b>	<b>£104,224.46</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>£24,266.54</b>	<b>£19,463.31</b>
B/Fwd 1st April	£51,610.94	£75,877.00
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>£75,877.48</b>	<b>£95,340.31</b>
<b>Balance Sheet at 31st March 2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Vat Recoverable	£2,227.75	£2,528.24
Prepayments	£237.81	£1,587.37
Cash at Bank	£74,867.00	£95,866.39
Cash in Hand	£44.58	£88.63
	<b>£77,377.14</b>	<b>£100,070.63</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	£1,499.66	£5,763.29
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>£75,877.48</b>	<b>£94,307.34</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
General Fund	32,484.77	35,000.00
Earmarked Fund	43,392.71	59,307.34
	<b>£75,877.48</b>	<b>£94,307.34</b>

The independent internal audit of the Town Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2011 has been completed successfully. The District Auditor will carry out a full external audit commencing on 20 June 2011. The District Auditor has issued a Certificate of Audit for the Town Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010 with no additional comments. A copy of the certificate can be seen on request to the Town Clerk.