

# CREDITON TOWN COUNCIL

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



Cllr Frank Letch and the Mayoress, Mrs Natalia Letch, joined in the seasonal celebrations at Hillbrow Residential Home

Now that Christmas is behind us it is time to look forward to a new year that will doubtless be challenging, but hopefully at times exciting both for the people of Crediton and the Town Council. This winter, so far, has been cold windy and damp so let us hope that this year we do not need to face the challenges of ice and snow. If we do it may be comforting to know that the Town Council has negotiated with Devon County Council for five more grit bins in strategic locations in the town.

January is always a challenging time for the Town Council because we have to sit down together and work out a budget for the year, which essentially means setting the precept for the Town Council's part of your council tax bill. We are aware of the policy of central government for as little increase as possible but if the town is to make progress, it has to come at a cost but the Town Council will make sure that the extra cost is as little as possible.

The link road saga rumbles on but seems to be entering an interesting and almost final stage. When it is finally finished I'm sure that it will be of great benefit to the town, in particular to the air quality in Exeter Road and the congestion in the High Street. Patience is a virtue they say and the people of Crediton have shown immeasurable patience over this issue.

The Town Council has created a new working group, the Events Working Group. Its primary purpose is to plan important events in the town. This year the obvious event will be the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration. Members of the working group are drawn from the community as well as four town councillors. We look forward to an exciting celebration of this truly historic event!

I have repeated my New Year's resolution to be on the town square on the first Saturday of each month to coincide with the Farmers' Market. Once again I hope that electors will come forward with suggestions, comments and maybe even some praise for the work of the Council.

Frank Letch, *Town Mayor, Chairman Crediton Town Council*

## Transport issues

At the end of last year, members of the town council met Devon County Councillor, Stuart Hughes, who is the Transport portfolio holder for the authority. The marking of loading bays was a major issue that was raised and the council is seeking the support of the county and our MP to try to resolve the unclear marking which has resulted in many drivers inadvertently contravening parking regulations and receiving a fine.

The town council also put forward requests to the county to consider lower speed limits in some residential areas, the future of the town bus and ways in which town centre parking can be managed without charging town centre users.



Where's this? Turn over and read all about it . . .

## Useful Contacts

**Mid Devon District Council** 01884 255255 (Tiverton) [www.middevon.gov.uk](http://www.middevon.gov.uk)  
**Devon County Council** 0845 1551015 [www.devon.gov.uk](http://www.devon.gov.uk)

Crediton Library 01363 772578  
 Citizens Advice Bureau 01363 778410  
 Crediton Hospital 01363 775588  
 Social Services 0845 1551015

**District & County Councillors**  
 John Downes (District) 01363 774267  
 Bob Wright (District) 01363 773566  
 Martin Binks (District) 01363 774895  
 Nick Way (District & County) 01363 777903  
**Non-Urgent Police Enquiries/Reports**  
 08452 777444

## MEETING SCHEDULE 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.
January	No Meeting	24	
February	7	21	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.
March	6	20	
April	3	24	
May	15	29 AGM	The Council is registered under the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts and will make certain information available for public inspection.
June	12	26	
July	10	31	
August	No Meeting	No Meeting	
September	4	18	The Council has taken all necessary steps to comply with the Code of Conduct for Councillors.
October	9	23	
November	6	20	
December	No Meeting	18	The Annual Town Meeting 2012 will take place at the Old Town Hall on 17 April at 7.00pm.

## 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	15 Farm Hill, Exeter, EX4 2LW		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: <a href="mailto:townclerk@crediton.gov.uk">townclerk@crediton.gov.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.crediton.gov.uk">www.crediton.gov.uk</a>
<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 January - March 2012

# People's Park restoration project

Crediton Town Council owns fewer properties than other town councils in the region, a number of town assets having been handed over to the District Council under reorganisation in the 1970s. People's Park is one that the council administers on behalf of the town, along with Upper Deck, the War Memorial, the bus shelters, the St Boniface statue, the Millennium Cross, the bandstand, Stoney Park and three allotment sites with a total of 110 allotments. For the last few years the council has been planning for a major refurbishment and enhancement of People's Park. The completion of this project will mark the end of a 10-year programme of improvement by which all town council property will have been restored or brought up to a high standard of repair.

## The Scout memorial gardens

### The Gardens' origins

These memorial gardens were built in 1957 to commemorate 50 years of scouting in Crediton. General Sir Redvers Buller, having been an associate of Baden Powell, the founder of the scouting movement, during their service with the British army in South Africa, was a keen supporter of the early scouting movement and Crediton was among the very first communities in the country to see the establishment of a scout group.



The team of builders, 1957

### Restoration

More than sixty years later, the gardens were in desperate need of thorough restoration and enhancement to provide safer and better access to and through the park.

Although the gardens themselves were quite modest in scale, restoration of hard landscaping is expensive and at the same time, the council was keen to improve access for all potential visitors to the park. The amount of funding required was far beyond the usual budget of the council and financial support was sought from a variety of sources including the county and district councils.

A working group was set up to guide the project through its various stages with members from not only the local councils but from the local community, representing the scouts and guides, the Access Group, the Tree Group and local residents. Their input to the project has been critical in ensuring that the interests of all users are considered and that local expertise and ideas are included in the end result. The first part of the restoration is now almost completed (despite severe problems caused by bad weather and delays in the delivery of materials) and already this part of the park looks very different.

### Future work

But the garden restoration is only half way through. There are plans for planting a wildlife area, spring bulbs and further soft landscaping, to improve seating and provide further handrails. Most important, are the plans to build gently sloping paths to the gardens for wheelchair users, people with pushchairs and those with mobility difficulties. The town council is committed to completing the project in its entirety and will



The project in progress, January 2012



The Scout memorial gardens in 2010 – in need of the

be seeking funding from its own resources and by making further applications to the other local authorities and grant making organisations.

### People's Park trees

Some time ago the council commissioned an arboriculturist's report on the condition of the trees in the park. Most of the trees along the top path are very mature and reaching the end of their normal life span. Some of the mature limes are in need of treatment or replacement in order to maintain the original line. Further works are needed to improve the condition of other trees in the park and the working group has recommended future planting and replacement of specimens.



The surface of the path that runs behind the line of mature trees will be improved with a layer of bark chippings

### Friends

Everyone needs friends and the park is no exception. To make the most of this town asset and keep it in good condition in the future a local group of Friends of the Park would be a way forward. Once the major restoration is completed, the park will continue to benefit from ideas to improve it and maintain it. The working group would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining such a group – from anywhere in the town. The park was established as a community asset for everyone, not only those living around it.

## Crediton in Bloom

### Sponsorship needed

After entering the South West in Bloom competition in 2011 (after a fifteen year gap) and achieving a silver award, the Crediton in Bloom group is keen to continue its work and to improve the town as much as it can.

The town and district councils already put substantial sums into floral decorations. With the help of the Chamber of Commerce and business sponsors last year, a great deal was achieved – but we can do more! There is never a shortage of ideas, only of funds. This year Crediton in Bloom is looking for further sponsors for floral decorations and is particularly keen to enhance the town entrances which give visitors the first impression of the town. Anyone who is willing to become a sponsor, large or small, is asked to contact the town clerk.



### We need people...

The Crediton in Bloom group includes business people and members of the local community but is largely organised by the town council. The balance needs to shift in favour of more community involvement and the council is keen to hear from anyone who would be willing to become part of the Bloom group.

## Events!

2012 will be a significant year for the nation and Crediton will be playing its part. The Mayor has established an Events Working Group to plan celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee and is looking for interested members of the community to join in. Anyone who would like to volunteer is requested to contact the town clerk. See the back page for contact details.

## In brief...

### The Link Road

The planning application for the Link Road is expected to progress through Development Management at Devon County Council during January.

### Crediton Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting for 2012 will be held on 17th April at 7.00pm in the Old Town Hall, High Street. This meeting is organised by the town council but is for everyone in the town and electors may raise any issues pertinent to the town as a whole.