



# Credition Town Council

# Newsletter

April - June 2014

## It's your town square!

The town council is discussing with Mid Devon District Council our proposal to take over ownership and management of the town square. The idea was suggested at the Annual Town Meeting in 2013. Then, last year, the district council considered charging community groups for the use of open spaces, including the town square. Alarm bells started to ring!

At the same time, there has been concern at the level of maintenance the square receives from the district council. One local business has taken it on itself to sweep up and tidy areas that show signs of neglect. The water absorbent surface, hard landscaping and trees all need regular general maintenance. We feel that local management and maintenance of the square could be more effective.



*Charges for hire of the square could have a negative impact on community events such as the Food Festival and open air performances.*

The square has been owned and managed by the district council since it opened in 2006. It was a local initiative, however, organised by a committee including Credition businesses and residents, as well as town and district councillors and officers. Funding came from a variety of sources, including the town council which raised £30K from public funds. The district council took ownership because the town council at the time was unable to oversee a large £1million+ development. But times have changed. Credition Town Council is keen to see the square more frequently used, free of charge to Credition's community and voluntary sector groups, and a user-friendly booking process. We hope that it will be possible to negotiate and complete the change of ownership within the next few months.



### **The Mayor's message - Cllr Frank Letch**

Welcome to the town council's new-look newsletter! Communication is a very important part of a town council's role. We are lucky to have the *Credition Country Courier* whose staff covers our twice-monthly meetings and other town council events. You can read about them in our local paper but if you visit the town council's website you will find the minutes of meetings, other informative documents and links to groups and local events. The town square will once again be the venue for this year's weekend Food Festival – the sixth! - on 14th and 15th June (the Big Sunday Lunch)! We all hope it will be well supported and that the weather will be clement.

# A new wildlife garden for Peoples Park

The east end of the park had become overgrown with laurels, ivy and nettles. A couple of years ago the overgrowth was reduced and it looked like this: →



Following a probation service project (community pay back), the area has been completely cleared and now looks like this. The black plastic membrane will reduce regrowth before new planting begins.

The plans for the area include planting herbs and wild flowers that will encourage pollinating insects and other wildlife. Any other ideas?

Several local groups and town residents have expressed an interest in helping to develop the area. Please contact the town council if you would like to join in.



*Daffodils flowering along the Peoples Park easy access path, which were planted by 1st Crediton Scouts in Autumn 2013.*



## Calling all gardeners!

The *Floral Crediton* competition will be run by the town council again this year, awarding prizes in a variety of categories

1. Small garden or patio
2. Patio or hanging baskets and other outdoor planted containers
3. Formal large garden
4. Natural garden
5. Family garden
6. Best display of commercial premises (town wide)
7. Mayor's Favourite



There's something for everyone whether you can enter a window box or a vast estate! Judging will take place at the beginning of July. Entry forms can be obtained from Crediton Garden Centre, Tuckers Country Stores, Crediton Library and the Town Council.

## Calling all communities with gardens!

The *It's Your Neighbourhood* campaign is run by the Royal Horticultural Society (which also organises Britain in Bloom). This is the Society's description:

*'The IYN campaign is a unique scheme for volunteer-led community gardening groups which are focused on cleaning up and greening up their local area, whether that's the estate where they live, the back alley they share, restoring a churchyard, converting disused space into useable green space, redeveloping all the front gardens on (part of) a street, or uniting local retailers to transform the high street/shopping area.'*

The campaign awards five levels of achievement: Establishing, Improving, Developing, Thriving, and Outstanding. Last year, Crediton had three successful entries into the competition:

- *Friends of Crediton Railway Station* and *Crediton Congregational Church* received Developing level.
- *Incredible Edibles* received Thriving level and a Discretionary Award.

Already, nine groups are entering this year. If you would like to enter, have an idea or would like more information visit [www.rhs.org.uk/Gardening/Community-gardening](http://www.rhs.org.uk/Gardening/Community-gardening) and click on *It's your Neighbourhood*. Alternatively, contact Cllr Mike Szabo (see back page) for details of how to take part.



*Flowers, vegetables and herbs in the Incredible Edibles' Town Square gardens*



## It's your ... Neighbourhood Plan

Crediton Town Council has decided to take up the opportunity of developing a Neighbourhood Plan that will have legal status – but it's a long journey!

Over the next few months, we will be asking people for their ideas about the town and how they would like to see it develop in the future. The district council recently consulted local residents and businesses about their plans for the whole district. Any Neighbourhood Plans that are put forward must be compatible with district plans but they can add detail. They can also make new suggestions so long as they don't conflict with district's proposals.

We already have a town plan which was developed through consultation over the last few years. We aim to build on that and particularly to develop those parts of it that relate to planning and development issues.

*Town Plan consultation 2012*



It takes about two years to develop a Neighbourhood Plan because all different age groups and interests must be contacted and consulted in order for it to be a good, sound plan that will be supported by a planning inspector. There will be a variety of different exhibitions, consultations and meetings over the next year so look out for opportunities to take part – or if you're keen to be involved at an early stage, please contact the town clerk who will give you further details.

## It's never too early ...

No, really, it isn't too early to start thinking about ... Christmas! No sooner was the last twinkling light back in its box than the *Christmas in Crediton* group started planning for 2014. We were pleased to get so much positive feedback on 2013's High Street lights and Switch-on event. We have taken up as many suggestions as we can for this year and hope to see even more people taking part in helping to decorate the town, dressing up and being in the Switch-on parade. We're looking at ways of adding to the High Street lights and giving the town square a seasonal touch. More news later in the year.



### Dates for your diary

#### April

**5th & 19th** Farmers' Market - Crediton Town Square  
**15th** Crediton Town Council meeting, 7.00 pm, Council Chamber, Market Street

#### May

**3rd & 17th** Farmers' Market - Crediton Town Square  
**20th** Crediton Town Council meeting, 7.00 pm, Council Chamber, Market Street  
**31st** Sustainable Crediton plastics collection at Peck & Strong, Marsh Lane, Lords Meadow 10 - 12 noon  
**31st** Crediton Parish Church Flower Festival begins

#### June

**1st - 5th** Crediton Parish Church Flower Festival  
**7th & 21st** Farmers' Market - Crediton Town Square  
**14th & 15th** The 6th Crediton Food Festival - Crediton Town Square  
**17th** 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
Nick Way	Westwood House, Westwood, EX17 3PE	01363 777903
John Downes	Blagdon House, Blagdon, EX17 1EH	01363 774267
Georgina Ford	Preston Farm Barn, East Village, EX17 4DA	01363 866413
Andi Wyer	3 Glen Creedy Court, Crediton, EX17 1GD	01363 777160

### Crediton Town Councillors - Lawrence Ward

Richard Adams	Lower Spencecombe, Crediton, EX17 5BT	01363 84165
Liz Brookes-Hocking	Oliver House, 7 North Street, Crediton, EX17 2BT	01363 774562
Mike Szabo	9 Alexandra Way, Crediton, EX17 2EA	01363 775255
Paul Vincent	2 Western Villas, Western Road, EX17 3NA	01363 775048
Anne Hughes	5 Leonard Road, Crediton, EX17 2AP	01363 898475
Clare Dalley (Town Clerk)	Council Offices, Market Street, Crediton, EX17 2BN	01363 773717

E-mail; townclerk@crediton.gov.uk

### Useful Contacts

Mid Devon District Council	01884 244636 (Crediton)	<a href="http://www.middevon.gov.uk">www.middevon.gov.uk</a>
Devon County Council	0845 1551015	<a href="http://www.devon.gov.uk">www.devon.gov.uk</a>
Crediton Library	01363 772578	
Citizens Advice Bureau	01884 244630	
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 866668
Nick Way (District & County)	01363 777903

**Non-Urgent Police Enquiries/Reports 101**