

Crediton Town Council

Strategic Plan 2021-2025



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Foreword

Crediton Town Council approved its first Strategic Plan in 2017. Since then, service delivery to the community has increased. This document focuses on our core objectives, and will enable us to measure our progress.

We are facing a more difficult operating environment with reductions in services once provided by both Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council. We have already taken on some services previously delivered by these authorities and feel that Crediton deserves and needs investment in its future.

Crediton Town Council continually reviews and updates its policies and priorities; town councillors and staff look forward to being able to deliver these over this plan period.



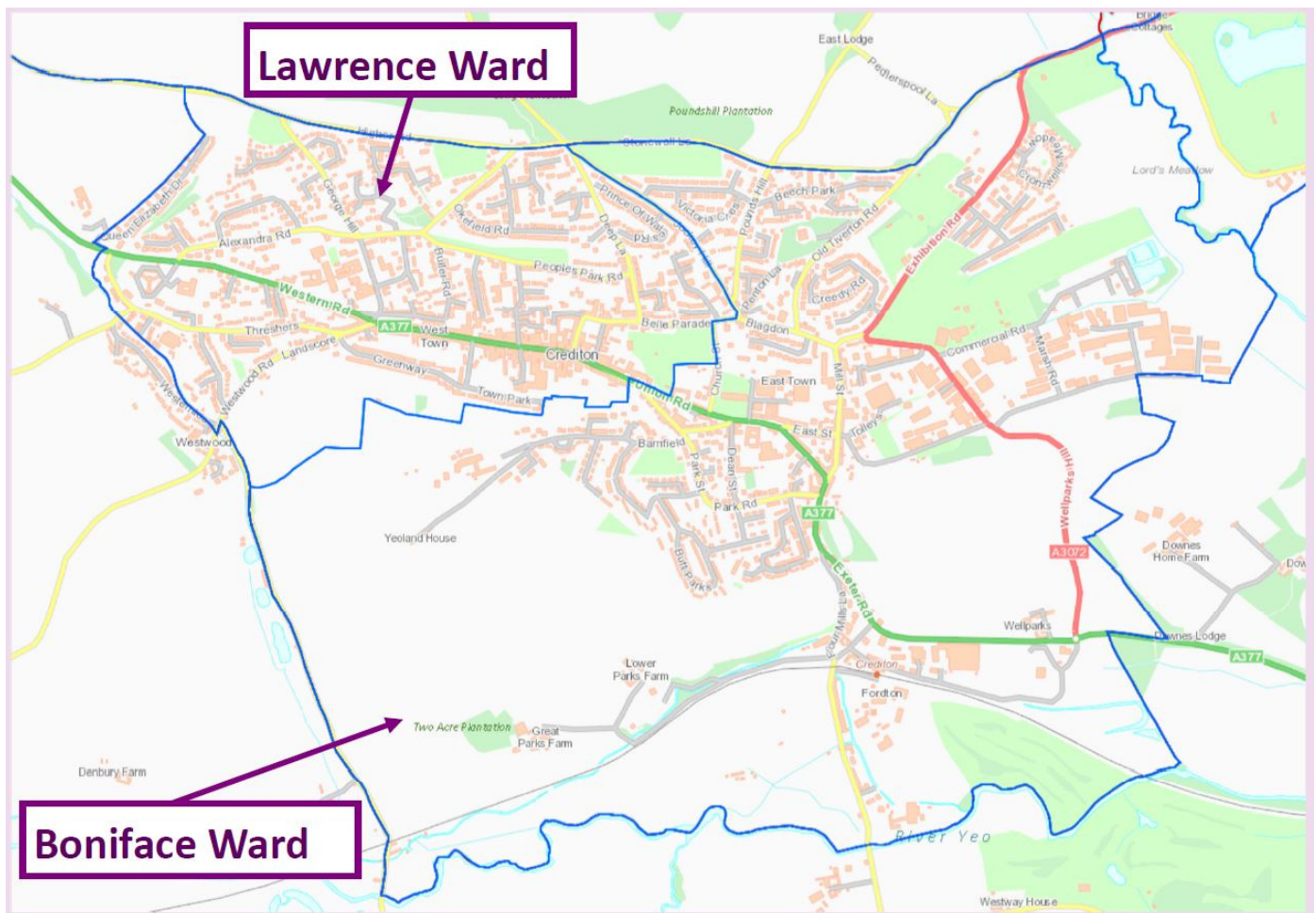
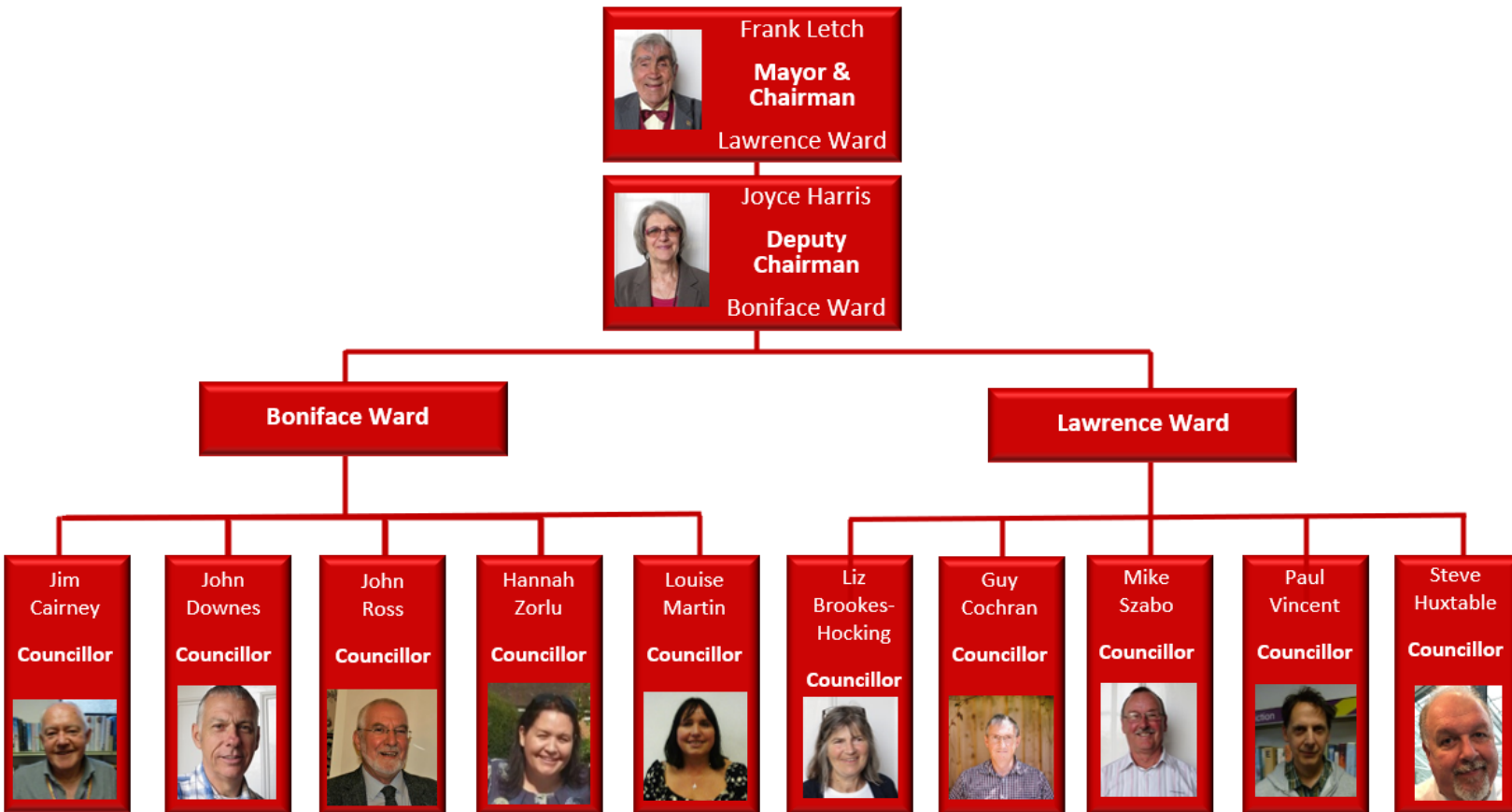


Crediton had 7,600 residents in the 2011 census but we expect this to have risen considerably due to recent development within the town.

Crediton Town Council is the third tier of local government after Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council.

Our role is to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the community, and to provide leadership through community governance and engagement in a democratic and representational way.

Councillors



Committees

Amenities and the Built Environment

Meeting every other month, oversees the administration of the council's three allotment sites, administration of public open spaces and other projects such as Floral Crediton

Council Affairs and Finance

Meeting every month, is responsible for monitoring the council's financial position and staffing matters, recruitment and training alongside deciding council policy

Planning and Town Strategy

Comments on planning, licensing and highway applications, alongside being responsible for the Neighbourhood Plan and other community events and initiatives

Property and Assets

Meeting every other month, oversees the maintenance of council-owned property and assets and is responsible for the formulation of future maintenance planning

Climate Change and Sustainability

Meeting every month, oversees the review of policies and practices for achieving low carbon/carbon neutral operations and sustainability within the council, and working with our partners on this issue

Additional sub-committees support work undertaken by the council:
Parish Paths, Grants and Christmas in Crediton



Review of our Strategic Plan 2017-22

The Strategic Plan focused on the following core aims:

- 1) Managed development within Crediton
- 2) Protecting and preserving public services, facilities and open spaces and ensuring they are provided in a more sustainable way
- 3) Building and maintaining relations with statutory agencies, local community organisations and groups
- 4) Encouraging economic development and tourism opportunities
- 5) Better serving the community by increasing services offered and ensuring they meet its needs to build, strengthen and grow.

The new Strategic Plan aims to build on these objectives and actions in order to enhance the services we provide and improve our delivery.

Reviewing our progress 2017-22

1) Managed Development

- Continued to make comments on applications and developments to the Local Planning Authority
- Progressed work on the Neighbourhood Plan
- Responded to statutory planning documents such as the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan, the Local Plan and associated Design Guide

2) Public Services

- Purchased public conveniences at Newcombes Meadow
- Grass verge cutting, previously undertaken by Devon County Council

3) Relationships

- Continued grant provision for community groups and organisations
- Councillor representation to outside bodies as requested

4) Economic Development


- Organised events that promote the town
- Supported other local events

5) Serving the community

- Supported provision of youth services
- Investigated potential of Old Landscore School as a public asset

Objective 1

Managing Development

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- An aerial photograph showing a town with residential houses, green fields, and a large brown plowed field in the foreground. The background features rolling hills under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.
- Finalise the Neighbourhood Plan for Crediton
 - Ensure that Crediton Town Council plays an active role in planning decisions
 - Improve areas within the control of Crediton Town Council
 - Encourage sustainable development where possible, as a commitment to the Climate Emergency
 - Engage with the Local Planning Authority on the allocation of developer contributions to appropriate projects in the town
 - Work with our partners to make Crediton a connected town, with cycle route provision being a high priority

Objective 2

Providing Services

- 
- Consider the value to the community and financial implications of taking on devolved services from Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council to ensure the retention, as far as possible, of services such as grass verge cutting and seasonal bedding
 - Work towards our open spaces being accessible to all
 - Continue to provide allotments on the three council-owned sites
 - To ensure that we offer good value for money when providing services, facilities and open spaces
 - To provide and maintain a public realm CCTV system

Objective 3

Building Relationships



- Offer strong leadership
- Continue to provide community grants to groups and organisations, to enhance the health, wellbeing and future of Crediton
- Maintain and develop our relationships with partners, community groups and organisations and create multi channel communication
- Provide excellent service at all times
- Work always within legislation and best practice

Objective 4

Promoting Crediton



- Encourage and work with partnership organisations in organising community events and projects that attract visitors
- Develop the successful Christmas in Crediton and Floral Crediton events
- Ensure the preservation of the town's historic assets
- Support local businesses, where possible, to safeguard the High Street
- Provide good quality, accessible public conveniences and attractive open spaces
- Continue town maintenance services, taking pride in where we live

Objective 5

Strengthening our community.

- 
- Address the Climate Emergency through emerging policy and practical changes in how we deliver services, carry out maintenance of public spaces and organise our own administration
 - Maintain financial support and management to the provision of youth work
 - Work collaboratively with existing groups and stakeholders to promote the character and importance of our town
 - To raise our standards by participating in accredited award schemes



Measuring our progress

This plan focuses the council on its core aims over the next four years, through which we can deliver a vision for improving CREDITON for those who live here and those who visit.

Regular monitoring of the report against actual progress will be integral to delivering the objectives set out.

Staff are committed to providing reports on the progress of these objectives, and will share updates with the Council Affairs and Finance committee on a quarterly basis.

Annual reports will also form part of the delivery of this plan and these will be actively communicated to the public through the website, social media channels and newsletters.

For further information, please visit our website
www.crediton.gov.uk
or contact our office
01363 773717

Thank you to CREDITON Heart Project for providing photographs