



2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT



CREDITON
TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCES

**FIGURES AS AT
31 MARCH 2025**

INCOME

Income Summary

Precept 491,499

Sub Total 491,499

Operating Income

Administration 32,631

Council And Councillors 15,363

Exhibition Road Allotments 2,339

Barnfield Allotments 2,129

Moffats Land Allotments 192

Boniface All. Assoc. Member'p 438

War Memorial 175

Wayleave Payments 19

Christmas Lights 3,255

Localism Project 9,349

Total Income 557,390

EXPENDITURE

Running Costs

Salaries 205,206

Administration 36,024

Council And Councillors 26,055

Exhibition Road Allotments 956

Barnfield Allotments 2,021

Moffats Land Allotments 81

Boniface All. Assoc. Member'p 168

Peoples Park 4,139

Upper Deck 190

Bandstand 118

War Memorial 246

Street Furniture 0

Town Clock 240

Town Council Offices 31,215

Stonypark (400)

CCTV 5,898

Boniface Statue 0

General 1,852

Garage and Storage Rental 1,820

Public Open Spaces 1,579

Newcombes Meadow Toilets (37)

Old Landscore School 7,182

Tree Works 484

Town Maintenance Contract 12,077

Floral Crediton 7,274

Christmas Lights 24,592

Localism Project 9,210

Annual Grant Funding 41,157

Total Expenditure 419,347

DID YOU KNOW?

The town council's website contains details of all town council finances. You can view the budget for the year, monthly payments and receipts, as well as the council's annual return for 2024-2025. Please visit: www.crediton.gov.uk/Finances

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CHAIR'S REPORT 2024-25

Cllr Guy Cochran

Chair & Mayor 2024-2025

We had a great year in 2024 with the D-Day 80th Anniversary commemorations, summer Food Festival and St Boniface Day celebrations. Hundreds of local and not so local people (Dokkum and Fulda) attending these events making them very special occasions in the town, that will be remembered for a long time. Our local paper the Courier has also seen it's fiftieth year in publication.



As chairman I have been involved in many local events not only in Crediton, like the Annual Remembrance Day at the war memorial but being invited to other towns events that influence Crediton's community, one such event was the local 3rd anniversary in November of Dartmoor Rail opening from Okehampton Station. The rail service that now comes through Crediton has doubled and this provides a much needed alternative form of transport to our local city of Exeter and equally to the town of Okehampton.



Before the year end we also saw a great number of local people attending the annual switching on of the Christmas Lights in the town, so much fun had by all. I was then off to the switching on of the lights at Okehampton in early December, meeting many different parish representatives and town mayor's, from West Devon, sharing ideas and building stronger links with our neighbours.

2025 has equally been a busy year so far. One event in February being the opening of Mcdonald's in Crediton, some may like and some may not. Mcdonald's have though, created much needed local jobs and employ over ninety local staff that live in and around Crediton. Spring of 2025 also saw the opening of Lidl in the town, again employing local people. In April we learnt of the sad passing of fellow, Crediton Town, Mid Devon District and County Councillor Frank Letch. Frank was much loved by his wife, family and the wider community, he will be greatly missed by all of us.



On the 8th May we hosted delegates from our twinned community, Avranches in France; inviting them for the VE 80 remembrance and celebrations. Crediton Town, again putting on a well-received VE Day celebrations; with a Cream Tea held in the Boniface Centre for our local residential homes. A big thank you for the help of local organisations, enabling this event and a celebration in Newcombes Park on the Saturday to be enjoyed by all attending.

2025 will now see the start of some changes that government will initiate in our County's local government two tier structure of Districts and a County Council. Eventually within the next few years Mid Devon District will cease to be and Devon will have a new structure of a Unitary Authority (s).

So what could this mean for our Town Council in a few years' time? All towns and parishes, where these structural changes are to take place, across the UK, are expecting to have more responsibility for services that are currently being managed by the District and County authorities. Crediton Town Council has already been providing a youth service that the County Council cut several years ago. Therefore cuts in other services maybe around the corner; this could potentially mean, additional responsibilities will fall to the town and parish councils.

Your Town Council already has started a forum with the local community parishes, that this town also serves, to see where we can collaboratively work together to share ideas and resources in the future.

As we look forward to the summer, 2025 will see also see new businesses opening in the town, a new and much needed launderette in the High Street being one. Your Town Council will continue to work with the District and County Councils through Local Government Reorganisation, encouraging and supporting local economy and enterprise, ensuring we have the right balance of places to live and work locally.

I have had a great year serving my local community not only as a Town Councillor but as a District Councillor and Chairman of a local football club. I have decided to step back to once again take on the role of a Deputy Chair at Crediton Town Council for this forthcoming year, allowing Cllr Steve Huxtable to take on the chairman's role and build upon this year's hard work from your local Councillors and dedicated Town Council staff.

Cllr Guy Cochran
Chairman 2024-2025

COMMITTEE REPORTS 2024-25

OVERSIGHT

The Oversight Committee plays an important role for the council. It is primarily the committee that considers all matters relating to governance as well as finance and making recommendations to the Full Council on such matters. This includes the proposing the amount of the annual precept, forming part of the budget needs for the following year and balancing the current and future needs of the council against the fact that the precept is fully funded by those households paying council tax, and in the context of the current financial difficulties many face it is not a straightforward decision.

The responsibilities also include the monitoring and assessing of the internal control checks and risk assessments, as well as the recommendations and actions required following internal and external audits.

Much of this is "repeated" on at least an annual basis alongside working to ensure that the policies and procedures are up to date.

The Committee worked throughout the year conscious of its remit of helping to promote Crediton alongside the other committees and sub-committees as well as many other groups and organisations within the town.

GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Grants Sub-Committee has the pleasure and the responsibility of being able to consider applications received for grants. Not only does this mean that each of the applications and supporting documentation is fully reviewed, but as a result we are also able to meet with some of the applicants to discuss and understand their application more fully. The Council is committed to encourage, support and promote local community groups and organisations based in the town or whose activities will contribute to or benefit the town and/or the wellbeing of residents.

In relation to grants, the council aims to be able to allocate 10% of its annual budget back to the community by way of these grants. During the year grants totalling £41,157 were distributed locally against an agreed budget of £42,000 - having a slight underspend is disappointing and as a result we are looking at ways of making the grant application process simpler without compromising on the quality and vetting of applications received.

Please take a look at the Grants page on the council's website www.crediton.gov.uk/finance/grants for current information as to how to apply and what deadlines may be applicable for the coming year.

PARISH PATHS SUB-COMMITTEE

At the first meeting of 2024-2025 the committee had the pleasure in welcoming the newly appointed Public Rights of Way Officer for Devon County Council, Jon Boyd.

The annual footpath surveys were carried out in the spring and reported more works were needed to footpath 28 due to heavy erosion of a bank, meaning the footpath required temporarily closing due to potential safety issues. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for an update in June as to when the work will be completed.

This year saw the dissolution of the Parish Paths Sub-Committee, transferring its responsibilities to the Community Committee. It was agreed the aims for the new year moving forward were to continue with Cllr Fawssett's efforts to promote the use of footpaths and the benefits of walking and to integrate these footpaths with tree walks. The use of better signage and making improvements particularly to footpath 1 as a starting point. It was agreed to look at including potential heritage elements and making paths more appealing to school children.

Administrative Officer & P3 Clerk

COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURE 2025-26



At our annual meeting held in May 2025, changes were made to the Council's Committee structure.

The terms of reference for each committee and sub-committee can be found on our website at www.crediton.gov.uk/your-council/meetings.

Who does what?

Crediton Town Council has an overall responsibility for the wellbeing of Crediton residents and protecting their quality of life, environment and economic wellbeing. The way we live, work and enjoy time in Crediton is supported by three council bodies:

CREDITON TOWN COUNCIL

- Maintain open spaces
- Maintain town council assets (War Memorial, Boniface Statue, bandstand, noticeboards etc.)
- Hedge and grass cutting on town council land and other agreed areas
- Allotments for residents
- Public conveniences (Newcombes meadow toilets)
- Partnership working with groups and charities
- Community grants
- Community projects
- Town events (e.g. Christmas in Crediton)
- Making observations to planning authorities
- Campaigning for the wellbeing of residents
- Working to make Crediton more sustainable
- Youth work
- Representing residents on local issues
- Maintaining public footpaths in Crediton (in partnership with DCC)
- CCTV

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

- Rubbish, recycling, garden waste, food waste collections
- Maintain play areas and equipment
- Council tax and business rates
- Housing
- Planning applications and building control
- Dog controls including dog mess
- Off-street parking (pay & display car parks in Crediton)
- Environmental health
- Leisure Centres (Lords Meadow in Crediton)
- Public conveniences (Market St toilets)
- Economic development
- Licensing
- Electoral registration and voting

01884 255255
www.middevon.gov.uk



DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

- Education, school admissions, early years and education/health care plans
- Roads, transport, potholes, public rights of way, cycling routes, street lighting, on-street parking, traffic management and reporting any related problems
- Fire and public safety
- Social care, blue badges, health care
- Libraries
- Recycling centres, fly tipping and graffiti
- Celebratory events, birth and death registrations
- Business support
- Child protection and adoption
- Trading Standards
- Concessionary bus passes

0345 155 1015
www.devon.gov.uk



Crediton Town Councillors - Boniface Ward

Jim Cairney	jcairney@crediton.gov.uk	01363 773490
John Downes	jdownes@crediton.gov.uk	01363 774267
Joyce Harris	jharris@crediton.gov.uk	01363 775221
Stephen Huxtable (Chairman & Mayor)	shuxtable@crediton.gov.uk	07875 886550
Natalia Letch	nletch@crediton.gov.uk	01363 775739
Paul Perriman	pperriman@crediton.gov.uk	07442 161917

Crediton Town Councillors - Lawrence Ward

Liz Brookes-Hocking	lbrookes-hocking@crediton.gov.uk	01363 774562
Rachel Backhouse	rbackhouse@crediton.gov.uk	07889 680434
Guy Cochran (Deputy Mayor & Chairman)	gcochran@crediton.gov.uk	07891 898487
Giles Fawssett	gfawssett@crediton.gov.uk	07484 878681
Vix Frisby	vfrisby@crediton.gov.uk	

Rachel Avery (Town Clerk)

E-mail: reception@crediton.gov.uk Tel: 01363 773717 Council Offices, The Bungalow, 8 North Street, Crediton, EX17 2BT

District & County Councillors

John Downes (District)	01363 774267
Jim Cairney (District & County)	01363 773490
Guy Cochran (District)	07891 898487

Useful Contacts

Mid Devon District Council	01884 255255	www.middevon.gov.uk
Devon County Council	0845 155 1015	www.devon.gov.uk
Crediton Library	01363 772578	
More on our website: www.crediton.gov.uk/useful-contacts		