



2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT



**CREDITON
TOWN COUNCIL**

FINANCES

FIGURES AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

INCOME

Income Summary

Precept 510,750

Sub Total 510,750

Operating Income

Administration 27,645

Council And Councillors 681

Exhibition Road Allotments 2,403

Barnfield Allotments 1,959

Moffats Land Allotments 204

Boniface All. Assoc. Member'p 442

War Memorial 200

CCTV 1,000

General 340

Wayleave Payments 19

Christmas Lights 1,150

General 380

Localism Project 12,842

Big Boniface Bash/Devon Day 965

Crediton Food Festival 4,635

VE Day 190

VJ Day 100

Total Income 565,904

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 2025-2026. Please visit: www.crediton.gov.uk/Finances

EXPENDITURE

Running Costs

Salaries 223,131

Administration 58,873

Council And Councillors 10,602

Exhibition Road Allotments 1,334

Barnfield Allotments 3,640

Moffats Land Allotments 326

Boniface All. Assoc. Member'p 127

Peoples Park 5,151

Upper Deck 640

Bandstand 10

War Memorial 346

Street Furniture 1,921

Town Clock 560

Town Council Offices 46,962

Stonypark 400

CCTV 7,011

Boniface Statue 160

General 3,033

Garage and Storage Rental 1,820

Public Open Spaces 900

Newcombes Meadow Toilets 1,588

Old Landscore School 5,907

Tree Works 3,953

Town Maintenance Contract 12,856

Floral Crediton 9,177

Christmas Lights 18,545

General 3,310

Localism Project 23,310

Annual Grant Funding 49,136

Big Boniface Bash/Devon Day 5,086

Crediton Food Festival 7,191

VE Day 4,976

VJ Day 515

Total Expenditure 512,495

CHAIR'S REPORT 2025-26

Cllr Steve Huxtable
Chair & Mayor 2025-2026

When my wife and I first moved to Crediton, we were immediately struck by the way this community works together. There was — and still is — a real energy about the town, a sense of people pulling together, which made it somewhere we were genuinely proud to call home. Now, over six years on, that same friendliness and vibrancy continue to shine through.

It's a real privilege for me to play a part in that, through my role on the Council. Looking back over the past year, there are many moments that stand out — and I hope some will bring back fond memories for you too.

We began the year by coming together to commemorate VE Day — a moving and meaningful occasion — followed later by the VJ Day celebrations. These events reminded us not only of our history, but of the strength that comes from standing together as a community.



I'd also like to recognise the remarkable work of the Crediton Town Council Youth Services team. Across the year, they've created opportunities for young people through initiatives such as graffiti art sessions, Love Your Park, the totem pole project in Peoples Park, the launch of Crediton Youth Voice, and their ongoing weekly sessions. Their work is not only engaging, but genuinely impactful.



Of course, so much of what makes Crediton special comes down to volunteering. There are countless individuals — many working quietly behind the scenes — who keep our clubs, societies and organisations thriving. Rather than risk missing anyone, I will simply say this: thank you. Your contribution does not go unnoticed, and our town is stronger because of you.

Another example of that community spirit can be seen in the monthly weeding sessions facilitated by the Council. These are not only productive but surprisingly enjoyable — offering the opportunity for conversation, connection, and, I admit, the occasional well-earned pause! Thanks to the care and dedication of so many,

Crediton continues to flourish, as recognised by our Silver Gilt award in Britain in Bloom, along with numerous additional awards across the town. It hasn't all been plain sailing, however. There have been challenges along the way — moments that have tested patience and, at times, proved frustrating.

One such challenge has been the Council's move from its previous offices, with the intention of relocating nearby on North Street. We have finally received Planning and Building Control and are moving towards getting quotations. I would especially like to thank our staff, who have continued to work with professionalism and resilience despite the lack of a permanent base.

There has, however, been a positive outcome in our closer collaboration with Devon County Council and the library. By working from the library on Mondays, Council staff have helped enable it to reopen to the public on that day — a small but meaningful step for the community.



I also have mixed feelings when reflecting on Christmas. The lights switch-on was a real success, thanks to the hard work of many involved. However, we did miss the High Street Christmas trees — something that matters to a great many people. It's already on our radar, and work is underway to address Christmas lighting for 2026.

Devon County Council also deserve recognition for their continued support in progressing the proposed cycle route between Crediton and Exeter. While there are no firm timelines just yet, it remains a positive step forward.



As I come towards the end of this review, I'd like to highlight one particularly inspiring experience – judging the Kick Start Art event. The creativity, skill and confidence shown by the young people involved were genuinely impressive. It gives real optimism for the future of our community. And that, ultimately, is what makes Crediton so special – its people, its spirit, and its willingness to keep moving forward together.

I hope the coming year brings just as many reasons to celebrate – and that we continue to build on everything that makes this town such a remarkable place to live.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking

First, my thanks to the councillors who have given their time to this committee over the past year, May 25 – May 26. It has not been an easy task to replace the Devon County Council youth service, withdrawn more than 10 years ago. As a town council, we started to take steps to offer something for young people in Crediton in 2015. Ten years on, we are approaching a stable, properly staffed service so my thanks again to all those councillors who have supported our commitment to youth in Crediton, to developing their voice and activities that have engaged them, whether once, twice or many times during the year.

During the last year young people and youth workers set up the Crediton Youth Council as a forum for discussion which can communicate matters of importance to them. In my view, the town council should support a forum for young people in which they can focus on issues that affect their lives, both in the town and beyond, and that they get experience of how decisions and actions they take can influence what happens and potentially achieve changes that benefit them and the wider community. The current youth council is working on environmental projects to combat climate change. It's their generation that will have to live with it and survive it. Their voice is important.

Other projects have included appointing more Peer Educators (young people 16-18 who are employed to help run youth activities, giving them early work experience); contributing views to the skate park re-development; photography of public events, as well as weekly activities and art projects, several in partnership with other town organisations.

The lack of availability of Old Landscore School as a consistent base has been challenging. My thanks to all our youth work staff and the young people participating in projects and events for their patience as we work towards providing a dedicated space for youth and community activities.



HR COMMITTEE

Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking

The Council relies on the people within it: the staff who carry out the day-to-day operations and the councillors who are accountable to the electorate for what the council does and how it does it. To support all personnel to achieve their best and make the maximum contribution possible, we have policies and procedures that aim to increase skills, knowledge and good practice at the same time as reducing stress and pressure to promote well-being on all sides. There is a wealth of training available to councillors, whether they are new or of long standing. Much of it is free and any charges are low, representing good value. One essential course for councillors is 'Being a good employer': it is often not realised that the council as a body is the employer of the staff. Any poor employment practice is the responsibility of all councillors, even if there is a committee that deals with it in the first instance.

During this year, the committee has confirmed the importance of training, the need for regular appraisals and continuing professional development for staff. It has also focused on council policies and procedures that pertain to good governance and which enable the council to function effectively.

The local council sector is a high stress work environment so ensuring understanding and good communications between officers and councillors is essential to a successful council, hence the importance of the HR committee's role.

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking

Over the whole year, the total amount awarded to 30 community groups was £43,089. As a matter of practice, we aim to allocate 10% of the precept to supporting voluntary organisations as we recognise the huge contribution that recipients make to the well-being and resilience of our town. In 25-26 our precept was £510,750 so we fell below the 10% for that year. Recommendations for funding are made by the Grants Committee in December but the council budget and precept are not agreed until late January and the final figure for the precept is not entirely predictable.

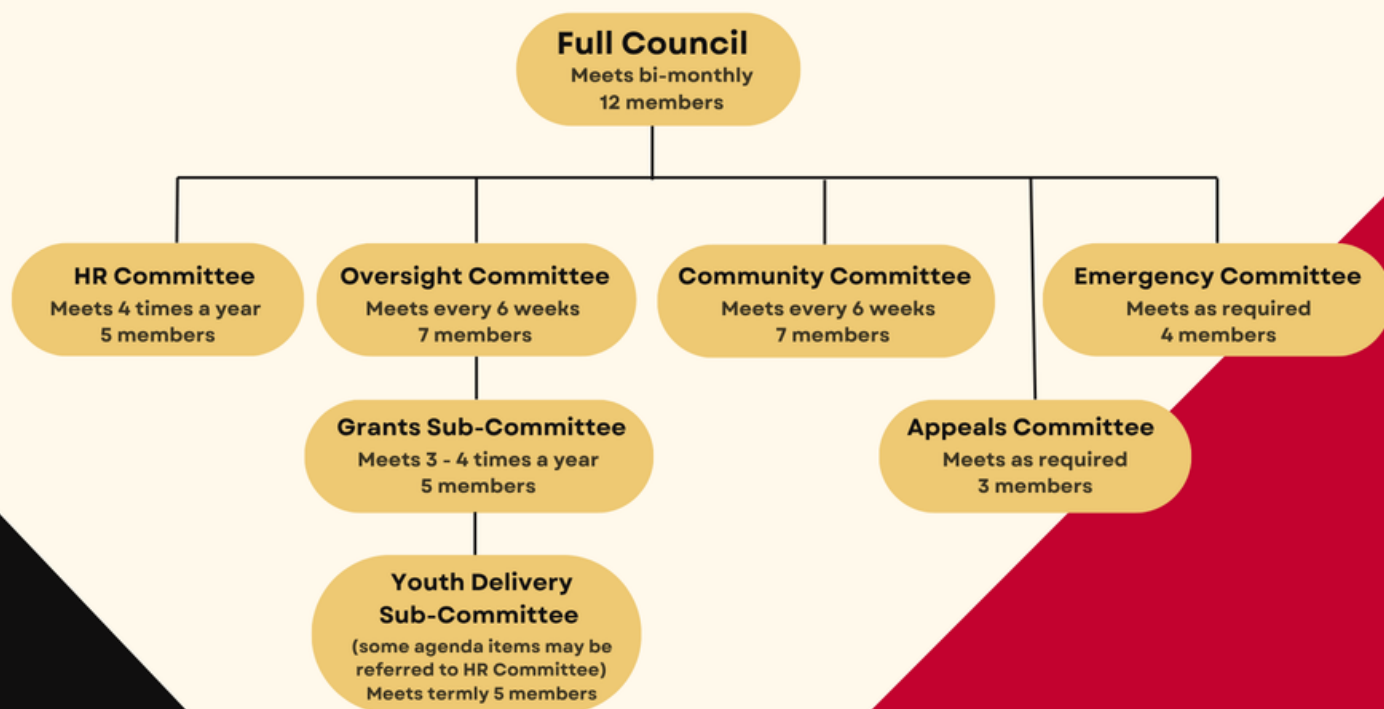
During 25-26 the Committee looked at applications for the current financial year (26-27) and recommended to Full Council a grants allocation of £59,065 in support of 32 community groups from a grants budget of £54,500. This time, we allocated a little over the 10% of the £545,000 precept but the total includes underspend from 25-26.

Over the last year, the committee has discussed ways in which funding can be made sustainable, more inclusive and more innovative. Our smallest grant in 25-26 was £350. Our largest grants are £3,000 and that is the maximum for all applications. Making very small grants to support new ideas could help to extend the variety of activities that happen in the town and increase the breadth of impact that grant funding has.

We have also undertaken this year to visit every grant recipient to develop better knowledge of their work and how they do it. This enables us to better assess how we can support the wide variety of groups, not just through funding, as well as ensuring value for money already spent.



COMMITTEE STRUCTURE 2026-2027



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

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John Downes	jdownes@crediton.gov.uk	01363 774267
Joyce Harris	jharris@crediton.gov.uk	01363 775221
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Crediton Town Councillors - Lawrence Ward

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District & County Councillors

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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		