



Statement on Biodiversity

Background

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 placed a duty on Local Authorities to consider biodiversity as part of its policy and decision making.

Conserving biodiversity can include restoring or enhancing a population or habitat. It is the responsibility of the Council to have due regard to this when exercising its various duties and responsibilities.

Statement

CTC is committed to doing all it can to enhance and protect biodiversity in Credition.

To achieve this, it closely monitors and reviews the work it carries out to ensure it meets its obligations, this includes:

- Ensuring the Council considers biodiversity in exercising all of its statutory regulatory functions.
Examples of this are:
 - When considering planning applications
 - The development of a Neighbourhood Plan, which will include policies for the protection, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity
 - When considering new projects and initiatives
 - When reviewing maintenance contracts of council owned land.
- Improving the management for biodiversity of land and buildings owned by the Council, such as:
 - Management plans that maintain and enhance biodiversity including retaining mature trees and replacing any which have to be removed using species indigenous to the area
 - Implementing new grass cutting regimes to encourage insects and wildlife. For example, during 2025, one third of the grassed area in Peoples Park remained uncut to encourage wildlife.
 - Limiting or prohibiting the use of herbicides in grounds maintenance contracts.
 - Creation of new areas of habitat such as the creation of the Peoples Park wildlife area and a more recent proposal to turn an unused play area into a community orchard.
 - Community tree planting initiatives.
- To raise awareness of biodiversity and promote opportunities for formal and informal learning, including officers and member training and understanding of the natural environment by:
 - Involving local schools, community groups and organisations in biodiversity projects. For example, in the past Landscore and Haywards Primary Schools created bug and bee hotels at the Peoples Park Wildlife Area. Also the bird feeders at the Wildlife Area were being regularly re-filled by a local nursery, encouraging frequent visits to the area.
 - Businesses around the Town Square sponsor the planters by watering them once per week, including Pippins Pre-School & Nursery.



CREDITON TOWN COUNCIL

- Crediton Urban Taskforce [CUT!] was launched in 2024, with action days taking place on the second Saturday of every month. The initiative promotes taking care of and tidying the natural environment, with all weeding and clearance carried out by hand.
- Crediton Brownies & Guides, local cadets and primary schools have taken part or expressed an interest in [CUT!].
- Continue to develop the Wildlife Hunt, which encourages children to visit outside spaces to see the wildlife living in Crediton. Encouraging members of the community to look after the areas outside their homes to reduce the need for herbicides around the town as part of the [CUT!] initiative.
- Encouraging the local community to volunteer and become involved in local conservation projects, which can also assist in combatting social isolation and engenders community cohesion.
- Act as an example of best practice, by incorporating biodiversity into relevant strategies and within partnership working, for example:
 - CTC to work in partnership with local groups and organisation, land owners and the community to raise standards and transform unkept and unloved spaces in the town. When Mid Devon District Council removed its bedding services from Crediton, CTC joined up with local community groups and volunteers (including Sustainable Crediton and the St Lawrence Group) to provide large areas of summer bedding. These projects have focused on the use of wildlife and bee-friendly plants, as well as planting perennials to encourage areas to re-grow from one season to the next.
 - In 2024, CTC moved to hanging baskets planted with grasses and perennials, attracting wildlife and reducing watering requirements.
 - CTC encourages residents and businesses to enhance the environment in Crediton through the annual South West in Bloom Competition and local community groups entering into the It's Your Neighbourhood Awards.