

Crediton Town Council - Town plan updated May 2012

1 Economic development

1.1 Town centre

1.1.a Car parking

- i. Ensure adequate signing of existing car parks, in particular, investigate electronic signage of capacity for St Saviour's Way car park.
- ii Look for opportunities to reduce or eliminate car parking charges for short term parking

1.1.b Business and retail development

- i engage with town centre traders/businesses to find ways in which the town council can help to promote the town centre
- ii promote Crediton as a distinctive and independently owned retail High Street
- iii promote Crediton as a food centre of excellence, of locally grown, food, food retail and cuisine, in particular, to investigate setting up Crediton Food Awards
- iv develop a policy towards empty shops, in particular in the first instance, investigate business rate relief as an incentive to new businesses, and community use of premises that have been empty for more than a year.

1.1.c Town centre environment

Continue and develop projects which help to make the town centre an attractive environment in which to shop and carry out business

1.2. Out of the town centre

We currently have no proposals related to economic development out of the town centre. The council may wish to ask the Working group to draw up proposals related to economic development out the town centre, for example, the existing and planned industrial estates.

2 Building development

2.1 Housing

2.1.1 Development in the existing town boundary

- a. Protect green spaces inside the town from development.
- b. List any undeveloped green spaces of significance to the townscape.
- c. Give preference to development of housing on brownfield sites

- d. List any features, such as cob walls, that are significant to the townscape.
- e. Invite CCA to help formulate guidelines for energy efficiency in new buildings

2.1.2 Development outside the built-up area

- a. Seek to protect greenfield sites from development where alternative sites are available for the necessary development
- b. Seek to protect the rural setting of the town and the nature of the land surrounding the town
- c. Advocate the inclusion of dedicated footpaths from new developments to the town centre and from the centre through new developments to the countryside.
- d. Advocate the linking of new developments to the town centre through safe cycle routes and public transport.

2.2 Employment

2.2.1 Development inside the town boundary

Support the use of employment land inside the town in preference to green field development

2.2.2 Development outside the built-up area

- a. Discourage new green field development until green field sites with existing permission have been developed.
- b. List and evaluate possible green field development sites.
- c. Evaluate the impact of different development sites on the town infrastructure.
- d. Evaluate the impact of different development sites on the town setting.
- e. Encourage appropriate appearance for new buildings located in prominent greenfield positions.

3 Environment

3.1 The town setting

Record and evaluate the setting of the town in co-operation with local interest groups.

3.2 Parks and open spaces inside the town

- a. Develop a policy towards encouraging use of open spaces and facilities, in particular, actively encourage use of the Town Square for a variety of social and community purposes, both formal and informal

b. Develop a policy towards the maintenance, access and future enhancement of People's Park; in particular, carry out further consultation with local residents and town residents to find out how widely the views expressed at the consultation are shared and to elicit other ideas that individuals or groups may wish to put forward with a view to keeping the character of Peoples Park and maintaining the land, facilities and trees in good condition for the enjoyment of town residents

3.3 The Town Centre

a Develop a plan for improving the town centre environment:

i Investigate putting trees and large planters in the High Street

iii Develop the Floral Crediton project

iv Enhance the town entrances in keeping with the rural character of the town.

b Develop links with other groups with an interest in environmental maintenance, enhancement and protection in particular for trees

3.4 Residential estates and industrial sites

Ensure that all new developments use appropriate materials and design to blend into the townscape or landscape and use trees to blend with the landscape.

4 Transport

4.1 Transportation methods

a The Council has a presumption in favour of encouraging and providing sustainable transport for the existing community and for any new developments that create potential users.

i The council aims to promote and facilitate safe cycling and safe cycle routes, in particular the development of

- the East/West cyclists' contraflow along Belle Parade avoiding the A377
- the Crediton/Exeter cycle route

ii The Town council will actively support and encourage any strategies that will enable and increase rail travel

iii The Council has a presumption in favour of footpath access around the town, especially linking new developments to central services and facilities and safe pedestrian facilities in the town centre

iv The town council supports measures to increase the use of public transport through better or more information distribution

4.2 Parking

a The town council aims to ensure suitable and adequate parking facilities for visitors, shoppers and other town centre users

i The Town council will support parking strategies to enforce maximum turnover in High St through a suitable scheme.

ii The Town Council will oppose parking strategies which introduce new costs to High Street users.

iii The council believes that better use should be made of St Saviours Way car park and aims to promote it as a longer stay car park for shoppers and visitors

4.3 Community groups

a The town council aims to include community groups in developing and carrying out transport policies and will involve them as opportunities arise such as

- The Rail Users group
- Traffic Action group
- Sustainable Crediton cycle group

5 Social provision

5.1 Voluntary sector

Budget for adequate support for voluntary sector groups

5.2 Young people

a Publicise projects for young people that are financially supported by the Town Council.

b Keep the budget for funding activities for young people under review.

c Liaise with and support projects involving young people as opportunities arise

5.3 Independent living

Proposals

a Liaise with voluntary and statutory sectors over the current and likely future needs for independent living.

b Investigate opportunities for achieving a fully accessible meeting place for community groups in the town centre.