



# Credition Town Council



Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held at 7.00pm on 28 April, 2009  
At the Boniface Centre, Church Lane, Credition

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**Present:** Councillor Mr F Letch (*Chairman*)  
Councillor Mr N Way (*Town/District/County Councillor*)  
Councillor Mrs L Brookes-Hocking (*Town Councillor*)  
Parishioners (**Electors of Credition Parish**) & Non Parishioners  
(*see attached attendance register*)

**In Attendance:** Mr M Maggs (*Town Clerk*)

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## 1. Welcomes and Introductions

The Chairman opened the meeting, made introductions and welcomed all present. He provided a brief explanation, outlined the meeting process and the Town Council's responsibilities.

He hoped that the meeting would prove valuable and interesting and thanked Councillors Way and Brookes-Hocking for agreeing to speak on the Link Road, Single Site School and the emerging town plan.

He reminded everyone to sign the attendance register and, when asking questions, to clearly state their name. In the interests of good meeting management, he asked that as many questions as possible be reserved for the Public Forum item at the end of the meeting.

## 2. Apologies

None received.

## 3. Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2008

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 15 April 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 4. Matters Arising

None.

## 5. Presentation by Devon County Council Ward Member on the concept of the proposed western route for link road from A377 to Lords Meadow

The Chairman introduced Councillor Nick Way and explained the need for an update on this contentious issue.

The County ward member began by outlining the proposed western route and expressing his personal surprise at the County Council's announcement of this option. He had just returned from a meeting at County Hall where a full explanation had been given. He proceeded by providing a brief history of the development plans, including the hill and valley routes. Following public consultation, it appeared that two thirds of respondents expressed a preference for the hill route. A subsequent County Council Executive meeting agreed to examine variations, resulting in the proposed western route. He emphasised that the proposal remained unconfirmed and was only a concept for consideration. A further consultation exercise would take place in September following additional design and investigation works carried out by officers. This work would include a noise audit. The consultation would take the same form as the previous exercise (leaflet

to all households) but would include an exhibition to be held at a suitable location in the town.

Several parishioners expressed their concern at this stage saying that the route was not feasible, resulting in traffic being diverted into a “dead end”, and suggesting that it would be more cost-effective to move the present industrial estate to the proposed Exeter Road site. Concern was also expressed about the impact on the conservation area at Downeshead Lane and the possible disturbance of archaeological remains and increased pollution in this area from HGV's. The County ward member explained that the main objective was to move traffic away from the Exeter Road and that the concept of a link road was perfectly feasible. He was sure that full surveys would be carried out before final proposals were presented. A new draft drawing was being produced which should provide more detail. Noise screening would also be investigated. Councillors had not come to any conclusions and were waiting for further information and more detail before discussing the issue again. The Chairman made it clear that the County Council needed to persuade the Town Council that this option would be better than the Town Council's preferred choice of the hill route.

#### **6. Update by Devon County Council Ward Member on progress towards a single site school**

The County ward member provided a brief summary of the current position and outlined the need for a single site school. The County Council had been invited to submit proposals as part of the government sponsored scheme “Building Schools for the Future”. At the moment there were some uncertainties about the development of this scheme and whether Crediton would benefit. The programme was based on the need to address two basic criteria; deprivation and school attainment.

The recent Ofsted report had been exemplary and in that respect QECC could be a victim of its own success.

The preferred site was Lords Meadow. There were concerns that the site would not be big enough. However, a feasibility study had been carried out, identifying certain problems including the availability of sufficient land. The sharing of resources with the Leisure Centre could provide a solution.

There was a general feeling amongst parishioners that the implications of relocating the school and the impact on the town should be taken into account before any decisions were made. The effect on traffic movements, future development of vacated sites and the safety of students in what is essentially an industrial area were the main issues of concern.

#### **7. Summary of the responses to the Crediton Town Council's emerging town plan**

The Chairman introduced Councillor Brookes-Hocking and asked her to present a short summary of the responses to the emerging town plan and the exhibition put on by the Town Council in advance of this meeting.

Councillor Brookes-Hocking thanked all the people who took the time to attend the exhibition and for providing their views.

In summary:

- **Town Centre.** There was very strong support for the town centre and its future development/sustainability. Support for greater accessibility.
- **Development & Green Space.** People were very devoted to the existing green spaces and expressed the need for their retention. The town's rural setting and the surrounding green spaces were important to people. Planners should take note that this is an important town characteristic which needed to be preserved. People were very concerned about the scale of the proposed development to the north of the town.

- **Employment Land.** People appeared keen to keep employment in the town in preference to expanding into green space.
- **Peoples Park.** Apparent preference for no or little change other than improvements to provide better mobility access.
- **Public Transport.** Huge support for improvements to public transport and the extension of services. Support for improvements to encourage cycling, walking and use of footpaths.
- **Voluntary Sector.** Strong support

The number of respondents compared with the electorate was small (approx 150). However, this should provide some measure of public opinion and help with the future development of the plan. There would be further consultations and regular reviews.

## 8. Reports

### a) *Chairman of Crediton Town Council*

The Council Chairman presented a brief report on council activities during the previous year and outlined some future developments and issues relating specifically to the Town Council's involvement:

- Emerging town plan
- Hub town meeting (Local Government Reform)
- Link Road
- Supermarket development
- Improved communication - new website, regular newsletters and surgeries
- Plans for Peoples Park
- Floral Crediton Competition
- Skate Park Project

### b) *Mid Devon District Council Ward Members*

A ward member presented a short report on district council activities during the previous year:

- **Skate Park.** Old equipment had been taken away and the tarmac had been laid. Users had been heavily involved in the design of the new facility which would be bigger and better.
- **Toilets.** The District Council had decided to close various toilets throughout the district, including the one at St Lawrence Green. It had been agreed that this would stay open until the new Market Street toilets were opened. The Town Council would be approached about the possibility of providing some funding to retain existing facilities and would be consulted on any potential use of the toilets if they were closed.
- **TIC.** Had proved economically unviable and sadly now closed. A budget commitment of £7,000 and £1,000 from the Town Council had been made to help secure some kind of future facility, probably combined with an existing service (Community Transport).
- **Planning.** People were encouraged to make their views known to the Planning Authority and how they would wish to see the town develop. The Local Development Framework was gradually replacing the existing Local Plan. It was hoped that plans would gather momentum and weight as the process proceeded

### c) *Devon County Council Ward Member*

The ward member outlined issues relating to his responsibilities as the county council ward member for the town.

- **Newcombes.** A new children's resource centre would open focussing on providing services for children between the ages of 1-5 with outreach to rural areas.
- **QECC.** Funding had been provided for a new classroom block at Upper School.

- Landscore School. A grant had been made available to complete the works to an adjacent playing field.
- Rail Working Party. An hourly rail service was now being provided and a 50% increase in passenger numbers recorded since 2003.
- Bus Services. New town bus services would be provided following consultation with the Town Council and the Transport Authority.
- Link Road. As reported earlier, a further consultation would take place in September.
- Investing in Devon Fund. Funding had been provided for some town projects, including, the Skate Park, Arts Centre, Parish Church and the Scout Memorial Gardens at Peoples Park.
- Locality Budget. Small sums from this allocation had been made to town organisations and projects, including, Age Concern, Youth Centre, Scouts, Floral Crediton, History Society, Family Centre, Festival 2009 and others.

## 9. Public Forum - Open Questions from Electors

The Chairman invited electors to ask questions. There were no further questions; most questions had been asked and answered during the relevant presentations. He asked if anyone had any items of information.

- Dates for Crediton Festival – starting 22 May. Details of the events were also given.
- The Town Council would be distributing the new Town Guides and Festival leaflets at the next Farmers' Market
- Twice monthly surgeries would be held by the Town Mayor and local Police, dates to be advertised.

In conclusion, the Chairman of the Meeting thanked all speakers for their interesting and valuable reports. Special thanks to those members of the public who had also taken the time to demonstrate an interest in their community.

Meeting closed at approximately 9:00pm with a total of 52 attendees.

Signed: (F Letch – Chairman 2009)

Date:

**Crediton Town Council  
Annual Town Meeting - 28 April 2009  
Attendance Register**

NAME	CREDITON ELECTOR	ORGANISATION
Ann Conway	Y	
Joan Farley	Y	
Karen Greenslade	Y	
John Rochester	Y	
Sian Beeson	Y	
Den Turner	Y	
Walter Brown	Y	Crediton Town Council
Julie Rudge	Y	Mid Devon Group CPRE
Jo Ward	Y	
Tom Blaen	Y	
Sandra Cooper	Y	
Laura Conygham	Y	Crediton Climate Action – Fairtrade
Gerald Conygham	Y	Crediton Climate Action
Liz Brookes-Hocking	Y	Crediton Town Council
B Butt	Y	
David Butt	Y	
Alan Stewart	Y	
Maggie Stewart	Y	
Nick Way	N	Town/District & County Councils
John Downes	Y	Crediton Town/Mid Devon District Councils
Joyce Harris	Y	Crediton Town Council
Peter Hare-Scott	Y	Mid Devon District Council
Robin Deitch	Y	
Sue Read	N	Crediton Country Courier
Rodger Bell	N	
Helen Lawes	Y	
Catherine Lawes	Y	
Simon Lee	Y	

Alison Key	Y	
Raymond Foan	Y	
John Hayward	Y	
R Gilbert	Y	
V Tuckett	Y	
C Stoye	Y	
Gareth Twigg	N	Crediton Police
J Baines	Y	
Jenny Hole	Y	
Claire Bell	N	
Jeannette Thom	Y	
Richard Thom	Y	
Sinead Partridge	Y	