



Credition Town Council



Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held at 7.00pm on 20 April, 2010
At the Old Town Hall, High Street, Credition

Present: Councillor Mr F Letch (*Chairman*)
Town, District and County Councillors
Parishioners (Electors of Credition Parish) & Non Parishioners
(*attendance register attached*)

In Attendance: Mr M Maggs (Town Clerk)
Mr P Williams (Manager MDDC Environmental Health)

1. Welcomes and Introductions

The Chairman opened the meeting, made introductions and welcomed all present. He especially welcomed Paul Williams who would deliver a presentation on Air Quality in Credition.

The Chairman also briefly outlined the meeting process and the Town Council's responsibilities.

He hoped that the meeting would prove valuable and interesting.

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

Apologies had been received from Richard Adams (Credition Town Council).

3. Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2009

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 28 April 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Presentation by the MDDC Environmental Health Manager on issues of air quality in Credition

Paul Williams made his presentation (*see attached notes*). He continued by answering questions from electors and representatives of the Credition Traffic Action Group.

6. Summary of the progress on the Credition Town Council's emerging town plan

The Chairman introduced Liz Brookes-Hocking and asked her to present a short summary on progress made on the emerging town plan (*draft document attached*).

There were no questions.

7. Reports

a) *Chairman of Credition 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:

- The Town Council had been successful in decreasing, by 2.2%, the per capita council tax for 2009-2010 despite increasing pressures and responsibilities.

- The Town Council supported and assisted with the anniversary of the founding of a cathedral to commemorate the 1100th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Devonshire, now called Exeter, with its first Bishop and Cathedral in Crediton. This included the organising of a Civic Service which was attended by many dignitaries including the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- The Town Council's embryonic town plan was progressing well with the help of members of the Town Plan Working Group.
- The Town Council again increased its support of town organisations by providing moral support and direct financial assistance in the form of grants. Organisations in receipt of support included the Mid Devon CAB, Carewise, Newcombes Centre, the Arts Centre and Shopmobility. Currently, support was being considered for a day centre for adults with learning difficulties, the Causeway Project which was celebrating its 5th anniversary.
- The Chairman thanked the local Police for supporting the Mayor's Surgeries by providing an officer to attend the formal sessions. Informal surgeries were being held at monthly Farmers Markets.
- Looking towards next year – 2011 would be an election year and the Town Council would be looking forward to receiving the continuing support of electors. The final decision on unitary status would also have a major impact on how local councils worked.

b) Mid Devon District Council Ward Members

Two ward members presented short reports on district council activities during the previous year:

- Superstore. A revised plan for the Tesco store had been submitted and approved.
- Community. Crediton was a town committed to community involvement. It was a constant battle to ensure that voluntary groups retained funding from the District Council. However, there had been district wide public support for community initiatives – eg. retention of village post offices and stores.
- Parking. An unsuccessful attempt had been made to obtain free parking in December.
- Tourist Information Point – plans to replace the TIC with a TIP at the Bookshop were progressing with financial support from the District and Town Councils.
- Finance. It would be important for everyone to be as vigilant as possible during the forthcoming year to ensure that the current provision of services is maintained under increasing financial pressure to make savings. The local office and other aspects of local services would come under scrutiny.
- Community Safety. Additional funding had been allocated and efforts would be made to help fight crime in local areas. An initiative to help address people's perception of crime would be started. The initiative would include the use of a message board system to provide information on crime and the reporting of crime. A community speed watch project had also started and volunteers were being recruited to monitor traffic speeds. There would be a community action day – planned for 9 June based on the East Street area with a second action day planned for 29 July based at Winswood.

c) Devon County Council Ward Member

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

- Responsibilities. The ward member was responsible for not only the town but a much wider rural hinterland with differing needs and requirements.
- Link Road. DCC was now in the process of examining the detailed proposals. Part of this examination would include carrying out a full traffic analysis with roadside

interviews. DCC intended to consult with stake holders once this information became available.

- QECC. The new Humanities block had been completed and was already in use.
- Children's Centre. Operated by Barnados, the centre was being well used. A new summer activity programme had been issued. A great deal of out reach work was being done to include rural areas.
- Senior Council. Successfully inaugurated and would be used as a community consultation group.
- Roads. A large number of potholes had developed, exacerbated by the recent bad weather. 26 county-wide emergency teams had been trying to address the issues.
- Tarka Line. Passenger numbers are continuing to increase substantially. Station is in very good condition due largely to the efforts of the Friends of Crediton Station and the Tarka Rail Association. An American company had taken over the Dartmoor Railway and planned to start a regular service to Okehampton.
- Unitary Status. Issue was on-going with the possibility of High Court action to contest the granting of unitary status to Exeter.
- Transport. New town bus service to be monitored by DCC to see how the service is working.

d) *Crediton Police*

The local Police Sergeant briefly reported that, following concerns raised by members of the public about speeding vehicles, local Police had investigated and taken action. This action consisted of a combination of issuing of tickets and the provision of advice, depending on the severity of the incident. The whole issue of road safety was being examined in conjunction with a revision of policy and the introduction of initiatives like the Country Mile Project.

8. 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.

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 8:40pm with a total of 22 attendees.

Signed:

(F Letch – Chairman 2010)

Date:

**Crediton Town Council
Annual Town Meeting - 20 April 2010
Attendance Register**

NAME	CREDITON ELECTOR	ORGANISATION
Sandra Chalton	Y	
Peter Finnegan	Y	Town Council
Liz Brookes-Hocking	Y	Town Council
Alan Stewart	Y	Crediton Traffic Action Group
Maggie Stewart	Y	
Laura Conygham	Y	Crediton Fairtrade Partnership Sustainable Crediton – Transport Group
Gareth Twigg	N	Crediton Police
Graham Pearcey	N	Crediton Traffic Action Group
Dennis Grant	Y	
Helen Lawes	Y	Crediton Traffic Action Group
Joan Farley	Y	Crediton Traffic Action Group
L Donati	Y	
Sue Read	Y	Crediton Country Courier
David Nation	Y	Crediton Town Council
Joyce Harris	Y	Crediton Town Council
S Martin	Y	
Bob Wright	Y	Crediton Town Council
Nick Way	N	Crediton Town Council
Frank Letch	y	Crediton Town Council
Paul Williams	N	Mid Devon District Council
Norman Bridgeman	Y	
Martin Maggs	Y	Crediton Town Council

Air Quality in CREDITON



Simon Newcombe
Lead Officer - Environmental Protection
(snewcombe@middevon.gov.uk)

Paul Williams
Environmental Health Manager
(pwilliams@middevon.gov.uk)

Mid Devon District Council

Presentation to CREDITON Town Council 2 March 2010

Content

- Local Air Quality Management
 - Reviewing and Assessing Air Quality
 - Air Quality Management Areas
 - Outcomes for CREDITON
- Air quality monitoring in CREDITON – what, where and why
- Monitoring results and modelling results
- Reasons for poor quality and sources of pollution
- CREDITON Air Quality Action Plan
- Progress to date and new measures

Presentation to CREDITON Town Council 2 March 2010

Local Air Quality Management (LAQM)

- Legal requirement of all local authorities introduced by Environment Act 1995
- Requires LA's to:
"...from time to time assess the air quality in its area..."
- Relatively complex cyclical process of on-going review and assessment of outside (ambient) air quality by monitoring, modelling and technical judgement
- Requires seven specific pollutants to be assessed
- Technical Guidance (published by Defra)
- Focus on locations where air quality most likely to be poor and where there is relevant exposure
- Compare concentrations of specific pollutants against national UK Air Quality Objectives

Presentation to Crediton Town Council 2 March 2010

The LAQM Process

- Every three-years complete a thorough review of air quality in the district – all pollutants and potential 'hot-spot' locations (Updating and Screening Assessment – USA)
- Every year in between USA's complete a Progress Report which deals with changes
- Supported by on-going network of air quality monitoring
- If at anytime a risk of exceeding an Air Quality Objective is identified then must carry out a Detailed Assessment
- Detailed Assessment is just that – a more detailed analysis of air quality at a specific location to confirm if there is a problem, and then:
- Legally required to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and produce an Action Plan containing measures to pursue improvements

Presentation to Crediton Town Council 2 March 2010

LAQM Outcomes in Crediton

- More comprehensive monitoring network for the town commissioned in 2003
- Detailed Assessment completed leading to designation of an Air Quality Management Area which came into effect December 2004

-Nitrogen dioxide in the High Street (exceedances of annual mean objective)
-Nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter in Exeter Road (exceedances of annual mean objective NO₂ and daily mean objective for PM₁₀)

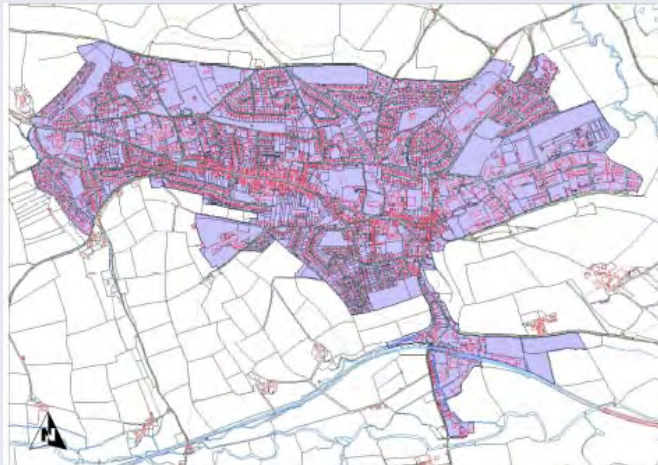
Air Quality Action Plan agreed and published June 2006

- 31 Measures
- High impact/cost measures include Lords Meadow Link Road and traffic management in High Street
- Developed in conjunction with the Crediton Air Quality Steering Group



Presentation to Crediton Town Council 2 March 2010

Crediton AQMA



- Encompasses whole town for action planning purposes

Presentation to Crediton Town Council 2 March 2010

Crediton Air Quality Monitoring

Diffusion Tube measures Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) providing a monthly average



Automatic Monitoring Station measures Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Particulates (PM₁₀) providing real-time hourly averages (24/7/365)



Presentation to Crediton Town Council 2 March 2010

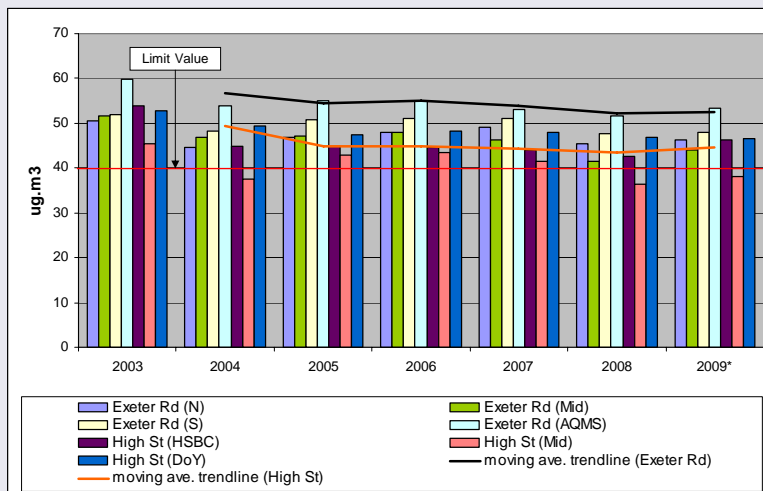
Crediton Air Quality Monitoring



- 6 Diffusion Tube locations (managed and bias adjusted to national standards)
- 1 automatic monitoring station (non-affiliated but managed to AURN standards)

Presentation to Crediton Town Council 2 March 2010

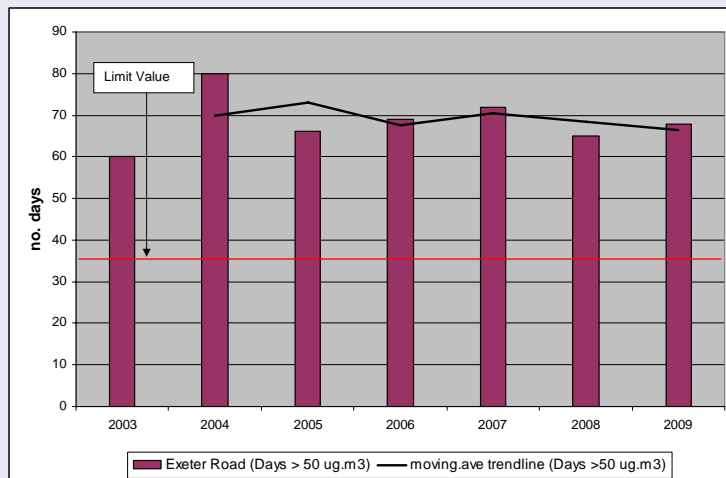
Crediton Nitrogen Dioxide



Average concentrations are 14% above objective (limit value)

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Crediton Particulates



On average there are twice the permitted no. of days >50 ug.m³

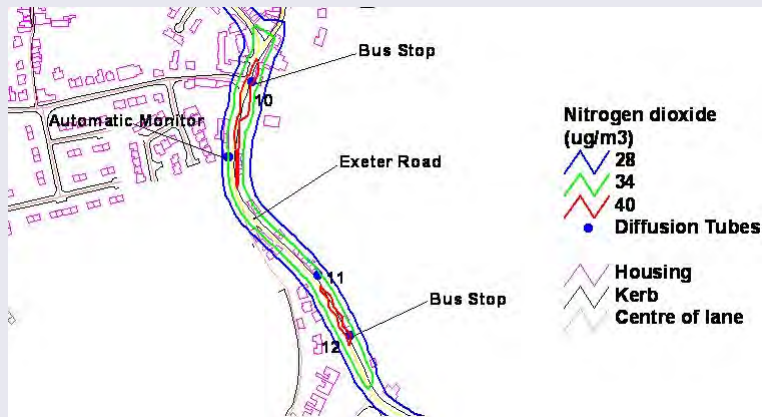
Presentation to Crediton Town Council 2 March 2010

Crediton Air Quality Modelling



Presentation to Crediton Town Council 2 March 2010

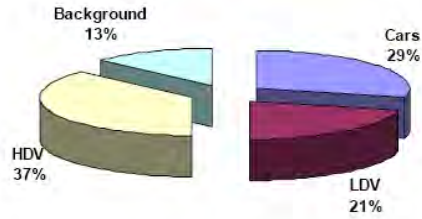
Crediton Air Quality Modelling



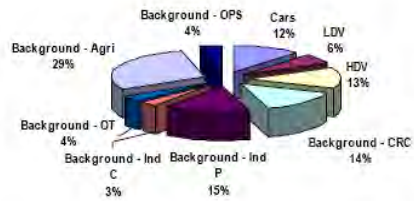
Presentation to Crediton Town Council 2 March 2010

Pollution Sources

NO₂ (High Street)
Transport sources=87%



PM₁₀ (Exeter Rd)
Transport sources=31%
Agriculture=29%
Industry=18%
Commercial and Residential combustion=14%



Presentation to CREDITON Town Council 2 March 2010

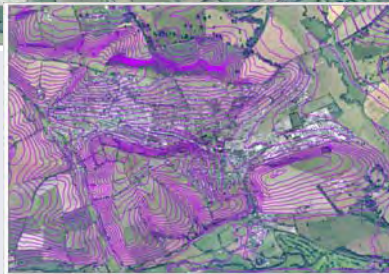
Why poor air quality in Crediton?



Main roads through town-centre
HGVL/DV movements –
especially LM Industrial Estate



Valley location – reduced
dispersion of pollutants



Presentation to CREDITON Town Council 2 March 2010

Why poor air quality in Exeter Rd?



Exeter Road street topography



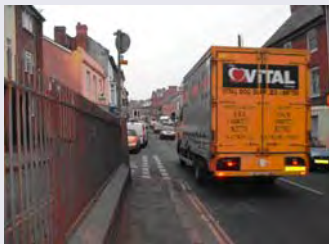
- Street canyon conservation area
- Residential properties very close to kerb
- Narrow carriageway
- Congestion

Presentation to Crediton Town Council 2 March 2010

Why poor air quality in High Street?



High Street topography



- Historic street canyon
- Residential properties close to kerb
- Street parking and traffic conflict
- Loading bays
- Congestion

Presentation to Crediton Town Council 2 March 2010

Common characteristics – Mid Devon AQMAs

	Crediton AQMA	Cullompton AQMA
Street canyons	✓	✓
Narrow roads	✓	✓
Low AADT (<10000 vpd)	✗ (12000)	✓
Lack of by-pass/relief road	✓	Partial by-pass (M5)
Annual mean AQO exceedances	✓	✓
Hourly mean AQO exceedances	✗	✗
Transport major source of local emissions	✓	✓
Localised hotspots of poor air quality	✓	✓
Length of roads >AQO (km)	1.1	1.3
Kerbside residential properties (relevant exposure)	✓	✓

Presentation to Crediton Town Council 2 March 2010

Some interesting points...

- Government estimates that there are 24,000 premature deaths each year from poor air quality in the UK compared to 2538 deaths in road accidents
- Based on the UK population means that the UK air quality has an approximate hazard rate of 0.04% (greater than passive smoking)
- Based on a Crediton population of approx 7400 then this could mean a possible 3 deaths per year in town from air quality?
- Possibly an under-estimate for Crediton since an estimated 457 people live along the High Street and Exeter Road frontage where pollution levels are above average
- Elevated concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) are associated with inflamed airways, increased risk of respiratory infection and reduced lung function

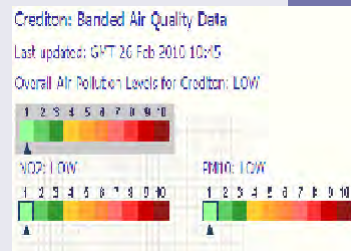
Presentation to Crediton Town Council 2 March 2010

Some interesting points...

- Elevated concentrations of particulates (PM₁₀) are associated with respiratory irritation, reduced lung function and can especially impact those with existing heart and lung/respiratory conditions
- Also evidence emerging that particulates can cause specific heart disease in addition to mild cognitive impairment
- Unlike NO₂, particulates are considered to be a non-threshold pollutant – benefits in reducing the concentrations as low as is possible
- Yet despite the differences between air quality and road death figures, the Government spends about 10x more on preventing road fatalities than improving air quality
- Near-live data from the Exeter Road monitoring station (and Tiverton/Cullompton sites) is available at our interactive website <http://www.middevon.airqualitydata.com/>

Presentation to CREDITON Town Council 2 March 2010

Mid Devon Air Quality Data website



<http://www.middevon.airqualitydata.com/>

Presentation to CREDITON Town Council 2 March 2010

Action Plan – progress and updating

Paul...

Crediton Town Council

Town plan updated March 2010

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

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 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.

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

ii Investigate replacing the railings round St Lawrence Green at a later point and after further consultation

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

4 Transport

a. Develop a transport policy for the town.

b. Support use of public transport through better or more information distribution

c. Link more effectively to other interest groups to help achieve policy a.

- Rail users group
- Traffic Action group
- CCA cycle group
 - continue to try to find a safe east-west route through the town that avoids the A377

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.

DRAFT