

## **Crediton Town Council – March Update**

### **Protecting the Community**

What a hopeful couple of months it has been! Saturday, Sixteenth of January saw the opening of the first COVID vaccination clinic in Crediton. With several clinics organised since then, vaccinations have been successfully administered to the top four priority categories in Crediton and the surrounding area.

The clinics are staffed by volunteers and Crediton Town Council has worked closely with Richard Ward, Chiddenbrook Practice Manager, to recruit members of the community to help support what is a vital service for the people of Mid Devon. Councillors have been delighted to give their time to contribute to such a worthwhile cause.

A full clinic day usually provides over 1,000 vaccines and without the support of every volunteer, this fantastic achievement would not have been possible.

Thank you to everyone involved in such a huge task!

### **New Committee Structure**

Due to responsibilities increasing and diversifying, the council is now at a point where a restructure is required. The new structure detailed above will take effect from May 2021 and allows responsibilities to be evenly distributed across committees, increases transparency when dealing with council finances and will contribute to effective budget setting. A full copy of the Terms of Reference will be available on our website from May 2021. Any queries in the meantime, please get in touch!

Committee and areas covered included below:

#### **Planning and Town Strategy Committee**

Planning applications, strategic documents & policies  
Neighbourhood Plan  
Highways & Traffic  
Heritage & Arts  
Town Promotion

#### **Planning & Town Strategy Sub-Committees include:**

Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee  
Climate Change & Sustainability Sub-Committee

#### **Amenities and the Built Environment Committee**

Allotments  
Floral Displays  
Floral Crediton  
Open spaces  
Footpaths

#### **Amenities and the Built Environment Sub-Committees includes:**

Parish Paths Sub-Committee

## **Property and Assets**

Maintenance of council assets  
Development of maintenance programme  
Manage earmarked reserves projects  
Strategies for council assets

### **Property and Assets Sub-Committees include:**

Old Landscore School Sub-Committee

## **Council Affairs and Finance**

Propose budget requirements  
Forward plan & make earmarked reserves recommendations  
Internal control  
Risk assessments  
Personnel  
Insurance  
Policy overview  
Civic events

### **Council Affairs and Finance Sub-Committees include:**

Grants Sub-Committee

## **Crediton Town Council 2021/22 Budget - What does this mean for you?**

What does Crediton Town Council provide for residents and how is your money spent?

Maintenance of Public Open Spaces, including Peoples Park and Upper Deck, continued allotment provision, seasonal bedding at the Town Square, St Lawrence Green and Newcombes Meadow, grass verge cutting, footpath maintenance and street furniture maintenance.

A brand new CCTV system for Crediton High Street, Town Square and Newcombes Meadow.

Annual 'Christmas in Crediton', Remembrance Sunday, and other community events.

Strategic Planning for the future of the town including post-Covid recovery and the ongoing development of council policy.

Provision of community facilities and infrastructure, including Newcombes Meadow toilet block and Old Landscore School.

Grant funding to community groups/organisations (2021/22 grant budget of £27,500).

Crediton Town Council's precept (paid directly to us as a percentage of your council tax) has been set at £325,197 from April 2021 to March 2022, an increase of 24.2% on last year. In real terms, this equates to an increase of £2.03 a month per Band D household.

What does £2.03 buy... one takeaway coffee or a box of cereal?

## **A Message from your Town Clerk**

As I enter my ninth month as the Town Clerk here in Crediton, I reflect on how challenging this past year has been for many of us; new ways of working, becoming home schooling pros and feeling far more lonely than usual are just a few of the issues that I have faced.

Even with restrictions in place, we were able to organise a poignant Remembrance Sunday event and a successful 'virtual' Christmas light switch on. Recently, we started live streaming our meetings to Facebook. This seems to have been received well, and I would like to thank anyone who has watched our videos, either live or recorded. I feel that this has offered a greater level of inclusivity and transparency, and it is something that we will continue to offer whilst we wait for details on when and how our meetings will return 'in person'. Watch this space!

What you may not get to see though, is the behind the scenes work that Crediton Town Council is involved in. Our twelve councillors are supported by myself and three other members of staff, working on a range of issues, projects, plans and initiatives. We deal with the day to day running of the council, but are often in the background on a range of activities. We have supported the employment of a new detached youth worker, are facilitating the seasonal bedding at St Lawrence Green and Newcombes Meadow, and have provided marshalling for Covid vaccinations at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre. 2021 and beyond holds further exciting initiatives including the proposed purchase of Old Landscore School and the renovation of Newcombes Meadow toilet block.

Whilst we are not currently in the office, our 'door' is always open. You can contact us on our usual office number or email us. One of the biggest perks of my job is speaking to the most important people in the town – those who live here.

## **CCTV – it's happening!**

We are thrilled to confirm that the Town Council has approved the installation of a Town Centre CCTV system! After discussing primary needs with the local police, coverage will include the High Street, Town Square, Newcombes Meadow and the War Memorial/toilet block area with the system being made up of 12 cameras, using 7 locations in the town.

With the kind cooperation of landlords and businesses, successful surveys have been carried out with regards to electrical connections in buildings and the next stage will be to carry out some camera demos to ensure optimum views. With the necessary checks in full swing, we hope to have an installation date booked in by the end of March!

With such a large scale project, there are of course large scale costs and we would like to thank the Police & Crime Commissioners Office, Devon County Councillor Nick Way and the East & Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership for recognising the benefits of the project and providing much-needed financial support. Not only that, but we would like to say a huge thank you to the individual traders in the town that have offered their support and contribution to the project in what has been a very difficult year. If you would like to know more about the CCTV system, please email assistant clerk Emma Anderson ([assistant@crediton.gov.uk](mailto:assistant@crediton.gov.uk)).

### **Floral Crediton Competition**

It's at this time of the year that we would usually be encouraging you all to get your gardening gloves at the ready, in preparation for the annual Floral Crediton Competition. Within current government guidelines, we are unable to make definitive plans with regard to the competition taking place. But as guidance is updated, we will continue to review this to ensure the safety of the community whilst trying to return to some kind of normal! Check our website and social media for updates.

### **Keep Crediton Clean**

How does the area outside your front door look? Is it neat and tidy? Or are there a couple of weeds?

At present, several of the streets in Crediton are sprayed with weed killer each year, but the Town Council is actively looking into environmentally friendly alternatives.

We would like to remind everyone that a little help from residents can make a huge contribution to keeping the town as tidy as possible. If you can maintain the small area outside of your house, this would soon have a town-wide impact!

### **Helping Hands by Cllr Mike Szabo**

Since the district council has decided to stop planting around the town, Bert Jewell, Eddie Sherwood, and Nick Hasted have taken the initiative to weed, cultivate, and prepare the bed at the junction of East Street and Charlotte Street for planting.

The bed will be filled with bee-friendly, low growing shrubs providing both summer and autumn colour. In the autumn, they will plant tulip and daffodil bulbs around the edge of the bed to match up with the blooming daffodils at the Tesco roundabout.

Many thanks to Graphic PLC for sponsoring this planting with a kind donation of £200.

### **Dates for your Diary**

6 and 20 March - Farmers' Market Crediton Town Square

16 March - Crediton Town Council meeting 7.00 pm

3 and 17 April - Farmers' Market Crediton Town Square

### **Contact Us**

Due to the most recent COVID guidance, the office is closed for appointments. Office staff will continue to answer calls/respond to emails from Monday to Friday between 10.00 am to 2.00 pm, so please call/email if you would like to get in touch.

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