

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2025

THANK YOU ASHGROVE KITCHENS!

On Wednesday 12 February we held 'The Foodie Forum', a drop-in session at Crediton Library, for members of the public to hear our plans for Crediton Food Festival 2025 and to give their views on the event. It was a really productive day, with two new volunteers, two new demo chefs and lots of views shared. Another consultation is being arranged and Events Officer Jo invites anyone interested in volunteering to contact her - j.davey@crediton.gov.uk. More information will follow, so keep an eye out. Pictured is Deputy Mayor Steve Huxtable, shaking hands with former Food Festival Committee member Steve Nicholls. Also, Paul and Katey from Ashgrove Kitchens who are long-time sponsors of the event and have kindly offered financial sponsorship and use of their sleek demo kitchen once again. The former committee have now asked Crediton Town Council to take on the organisation of this fantastic annual event. We thank them for all they have done and we intend to do them proud! Crediton Food Festival will be in the Town Square on Saturday 12 July. Download stallholder application forms from our website: www.crediton.gov.uk/News-Events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

VE DAY 80 Thursday, 8 May marks the 80th anniversary of VE Day. We are proud to be working with Kitchen@25 to provide a VE Day cream tea and entertainment for our elderly residents. Contact the Town Council for details. Thank you Emma and team! The main event will be A Very Vintage Picnic in Newcombes Meadow on

Saturday 10 May. Bring your picnic blanket to the bandstand and listen to some retro tunes, bring your family to play Village Fair games for free (thank you Crediton Lions!), and bring your appetite for a cream tea, ice cream and cider. And, as spring turns to summer we have more free, family events to look forward to...

THE BIG BONIFACE BASH

Sunday 8 June sees the return of The Big Boniface Bash – Glastonbury meets Crediton. Pop and rock in the bandstand, entertainers and street food, fun and games. St Boniface was born right here in 680AD (probably...). Get your glow sticks and your glitter tattoos out and celebrate his 1345th birthday with us!

CREDITON FOOD FESTIVAL

Saturday 12 July, the Town Square will host Crediton Food Festival. More demos and stalls than ever before, and a new lower price for stallholders from Crediton. It's going to be the best year yet.

ANNUAL REPORT

Crediton Town Council (CTC) sits in the first tier of local government and is the first point of contact for anyone concerned with a community issue.

We look after a range of community facilities including allotments, bus shelters and public open spaces; we organise a range of civic and community events including Christmas in Crediton. CTC also supports local community groups/organisations by providing annual grants.

Following the budgeting workshops held in November, CTC's Oversight Committee spent two months looking at the budget in detail. Ongoing increases have been considered, whilst ensuring the current provision of assets and services is maintained at least to its current standard.

Businesses and contractors have seen increased costs above inflation and the budget set reflects the general increase in costs to services such as grounds maintenance.

CTC recognises that the cost of living continues to rise, but the provision of services that it provides is of high importance to so many Crediton residents. For more info please contact the Town Clerk, Rachel Avery: r.avery@crediton.gov.uk.

CTC's main source of income is from Mid Devon District Council as part of your council tax. This part of your council tax is known as the precept. We use the precept to fund the functions and services Crediton Town Council provides.

PRECEPT

Domestic rate payers council tax
£510,750.00 (94% of anticipated income)

SERVICES INCOME

Rent for allotments & room hire
£4,015 (1% of anticipated income)

OTHER INCOME

Income received from grants and interest
£28,000 (5% of anticipated income)

Some of the functions and services Crediton Town Council provides: Community Grants, Youth Service Delivery, CCTV, Christmas lighting and floral displays, Community events and Partnership Projects, Environment and Public Open Spaces, Allotment sites, Council Administration and Facilitation.

COSTS FOR A BAND D PROPERTY

£182.74 per year, £15.23 per month/£3.51 per week, An increase of £8.66 per year, 72p per month/17p per week

For more detailed information regarding Crediton Town Council's budget, please head to our website: www.crediton.gov.uk

TREE-SPOTTING WALK IN CREDITON

Join us for a walk around Peoples Park and Southfield Drive. Our focus on this walk is tree identification in winter/spring - suitable whatever your level of tree knowledge! The walk will begin at 11.00 am on Sunday, 13 April 2025 and will depart from the steps in the centre of Peoples Park (EX17 2DF W3W ///boss.plums.presenter). School-age children with an adult are welcome. No dogs please (they can be distracting). Stout footwear and warm clothes advised.

FOOTPATHS OF CREDITON

I'm delighted to announce that CTC is holding a competition which promotes the use of our wonderful footpaths. If you would like to enter this competition, please contact me, Councillor Giles Fawssett gfaussett@crediton.gov.uk. Crediton has 35 footpaths.

I walked every path in numerical order for the town council's annual checks. This took me 6 hours and I met nobody, so I thought this was a good time for a competition! Walking is the cheapest form of transportation. Switching from driving to walking could save a household up to £56.50 a week. A DfT National Survey (2024) reports that 25% of trips today are less than 1 mile.

Our roads have historically cut through traditional footpath routes, and I would like the competition to raise awareness of this. Please send photos of your walks, with details of which number path you walked, and how it saved a drive, or walk all 35 paths and send us photos and your finish time!

CREDITON URBAN TASKFORCE

Crediton Urban Taskforce [CUT!] is continuing to meet on the second Saturday of every month. As always, we are incredibly grateful for the support that [CUT!] receives from the local community. Not only have there been new volunteers attending the action days, but before the most recent action day, nearby residents along Union Road gave [CUT!] a head start and cleared the sections in front of their own properties. Action days start at 10.00 am. Join our mailing list by scanning the QR code or follow us on Facebook for more updates. 8 March - Jockey Hill 12 April - Western Road 10 May - High Street 14 June - Jockey Hill 12 July - Exeter Road 9 Aug - War Memorial

LAND SOUTH OF BARNFIELD: THE VISION

Crediton Community Conversation – 22 March

If you came to the Community Conversation on the Land Use Framework at the Boniface Centre last year, you might have been wondering what happened to all the ideas that people put forward about the Barnfield site. Now's your chance to find out! Sustainable Crediton's Climate Action Team and the Town Council have organised another Community Conversation presenting The Vision for developing the land south of Barnfield and what the next steps might be. Come and see how the ideas put forward last year have been brought together and help us to develop proposals.

There will be a full morning's programme. We need your views on housing, economic and educational opportunities, agriculture, sustainable transport and more: what kind of housing do we need and who should it be for? What kind of environment do we want? How can our vision contribute to the town's economy and opportunities for young people? Everyone is welcome. It's your town: come and help shape its future. Refreshments will be provided!

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A TOWN COUNCILLOR

I was elected to the council two years ago, as an Independents for Crediton (IfC) candidate. As of recently, I am no longer a member of IfC, instead I am on the town council as an independent member. I work full-time and sit on the Oversight Committee and Chair the Youth Sub-Committee. I attend about 30 meetings a year and each meeting require an hour or so of reading beforehand. Assisting with grants has been rewarding, as was our lobbying of Devon

County Council (DCC) over its pension investment being linked with war crimes. If you have worked for DCC and wish to know more, please email me: r.backhouse@crediton.gov.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

SAT 01 & 15 - Farmers Market, Crediton Town Square - 10.00 - 13.00

TUES 18 – Open Discussion, Crediton Library, Belle Parade – 19.00 – 19.30

TUES 18 - Meeting of Crediton Town Council, Crediton Library, Belle Parade - 19.30

SAT 22 – Crediton Community Conversation, Boniface Centre, Church Lane – 9.30 – 13.00

April

SAT 05 & 19 - Farmers Market, Crediton Town Square 10.00 - 13.00

Calendar of Meetings

The calendar for 2024/2025 is available on our website: www.crediton.gov.uk/meetings

CONTACT DETAILS

Crediton Town Councillors - Boniface Ward

Name	Email	Telephone
Jim Cairney	jcairney@crediton.gov.uk	01363 773490
John Downes	jdownes@crediton.gov.uk	01363 774267
Joyce Harris	jharris@crediton.gov.uk	01363 775221
Stephen Huxtable (Deputy)	shuxtable@crediton.gov.uk	07875 886550
Natalia Letch	nletch@crediton.gov.uk	01363 775739
Paul Perriman	pperriman@crediton.gov.uk	07442 161917

Crediton Town Councillors - Lawrence Ward

Name	Email	Telephone
Liz Brookes-Hocking	lbrookeshocking@crediton.gov.uk	01363 774562
Rachel Backhouse	rbackhouse@crediton.gov.uk	07889 680434
Guy Cochran (Mayor & Chairman)	gcochran@crediton.gov.uk	07891 898487
Giles Fawssett	gfawssett@crediton.gov.uk	07484 878681
Frank Letch	fletch@crediton.gov.uk	01363 775739

Rachel Avery (Town Clerk)

E-mail: r.avery@crediton.gov.uk Tel: 01363 773717

Council Offices, The Bungalow, 8 North Street, Crediton, EX17 2BT

District & County Councillors

Name	Telephone
John Downes (District)	01363 774267
Jim Cairney (District)	01363 773490

Frank Letch (District & County)	01363 775739
Guy Cochran (District)	07891 898487

Useful Contacts

Name	Telephone	Website
Mid Devon District Council	01884 255255	www.middevon.gov.uk
Devon County Council	0845 155 1015	www.devon.gov.uk
Crediton Library	01363 772578	

More on our website: www.crediton.gov.uk/useful-contacts