

## Crediton Town Council January 2023 Update

### New Year Message from the Mayor

To everyone living and working in Crediton, and to those visiting, I wish you all a very Happy New Year. There will be challenges in 2023 but we have come through difficult times in the last few years and will do so again.

Looking back, the town council was pleased to join with other organisations to create a 4-day programme of public events for the Queen's Jubilee. Thanks to Crediton Town Team's successful bid to the Jubilee fund, all these were free. A few months later, the town council was ready to play its part in marking Her Majesty's death and the Succession. May 6th sees the Coronation of King Charles III. This council will work with others to create a community celebration for all.

In setting the town council budget for next year (see page 2), Councillors are very aware of those for whom every bill or payment is a burden. We aim to maintain our existing services economically. Volunteers and community groups help to keep the town tidy and attractive but professional input is also needed for heavier work such as maintaining trees and grass cutting. With climate change in mind, we are keen to move to meadow planting where possible, which needs less maintenance.

Some things are worth investing in, however. The County Council's Youth Centre closed in 2014 as government cut funding to county councils. The town council began funding youth activities in 2016. Now we have our own team of part time youth workers (see page 4). Consultations show that most adults believe youth work is important and are ready to support it.

We will have to make some difficult budgetary decisions. Some plans will be postponed and some projects will be done another way or not at all. We believe we are good value for money. Percentage increases can sound a lot but can be a lot less in real terms. A 15% increase in the precept would mean paying 41p per week more for town council services. A 5% increase in the county council's share would mean £1.32 per week more.

As always, we are keen to hear what residents value in the town and what services are most important. Our role is to support the community in as many ways as we can and that will be our priority for the year ahead.

### Crediton Town Precept 2023/24

As Crediton Town Council delves into the budget for the next financial year, we are taking stock of the services we provide in the town, how we can make sure we are getting value for money and understanding what our community and taxpayers feel is important.

Our recent survey aimed to give us information on where spending is essential and where it isn't. Respondents said that clean streets, public toilets, youth work and public open spaces were essential. While Crediton Town Council isn't responsible for all these areas, we will

continue to work with Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council to seek a fair deal for CREDITON.

We are all aware of the cost-of-living crisis, and the financial situations our local authorities find themselves in. Both Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council find themselves having to cut services to meet their funding gaps, and CREDITON Town Council is the only authority allowed to increase its precept (our share of council tax) to support delivery of local services. We are being asked to take on further services, including additional grass cutting in Mid Devon owned areas, maintaining public toilets and play areas, but our current precept is not enough. Given the inflationary rises we are all experiencing, the cost of running our current services alone will require an increase.

We provide grass cutting and maintenance on town council owned assets, including Peoples Park and Upper Deck; we cut many grass verges for Devon County Council to enable visibility for drivers; we provide a town CCTV system and a youth club delivering at least three sessions to our young people each week.

In 2022, we were able to provide lots of community-based events, including:

- a wonderful Queens Jubilee Celebration in partnership with CREDITON Town Team, and we were also a central part of the period of mourning during the Queen's passing
- summer holiday events and Christmas provision for our young people alongside our 'usual' youth work provision
- Warm Spaces in partnership with our local churches and organisations
- another hugely successful Christmas light switch-on event, with new lights for our High Street.

This is a small snapshot of what CREDITON Town Council delivers, and we want to be sure that our community is receiving the best service possible. To enable us to do this, we encourage you to respond to our questionnaires and engage with us where possible. We want to know what CREDITON needs. We are the closest tier of local government and we are here to serve our community.

### **A Service to Remember**

For the first time since 2019, everyone was able to gather in the church without restriction and it was a real pleasure to see so many there, from the youngest Rainbows to the oldest veterans. Our act of Remembrance is for the whole community and reflects the whole community. All have a role to play in bringing our town together at a time of national significance. Thanks again to each and every one for taking part.

### **Warm Spaces**

The town council is coordinating the efforts of local organisations, groups, businesses and charities to provide warm spaces for everyone to use this winter. This project recognises the impact that the current economic climate is having on the entire community, as well as the tough lockdowns of previous winters. Every week, Monday to Saturday, there is a warm welcoming space somewhere in CREDITON for free. Scan the QR code to find local warm spaces on offer or alternatively visit our website at: [www.crediton.gov.uk/facilities/crediton-warm-spaces](http://www.crediton.gov.uk/facilities/crediton-warm-spaces).

## Christmas Thanks

Despite the ominous weather forecasts, this year's Christmas in Crediton event was a huge success. As always, there are so many groups and individuals to thank. Without the support we receive from the local community, the event would not be able to take place. Visit [www.facebook.com/christmasincrediton](http://www.facebook.com/christmasincrediton) for even more photos and videos.

A huge thank you to...

Our sponsor: Hedgerow Print

Christmas in Crediton Sub-Committee:

Jack and Crediton Arts Centre

Alan Quick

Paul & the Rotary volunteers

Crediton town councillors & staff

Crediton Lions volunteers

All marshals and stewards

Kevin Payne

Jo Ward

Ian Rogers

Roger Pennington

Roger Lee

Stu Wight

Charlotte Turner

Landscape and Haywards

Primary School

Crediton Guides and Scouts

Crediton Youth Club

Father Christmas

Crediton Fire Service

Crediton Rugby Club

Crediton Courier

High Street Traders

The Greenhouse

Crediton Coffee Company

## Youth Club update

Our youth workers and young people worked hard creating festive creations to sell at the Youth Club table top sale and raised £110. These proceeds go directly towards funding new youth club purchases.

Later in December, Crediton Youth Club hosted an event delivered by Significant Seams CIC. This included festive gift making, a hot Italian Christmas lunch and a goody box worth £50 containing food and arts and crafts materials to take away.

*Photos by Jim Wileman courtesy Significant Seams*

## Upcoming Dates

### January

7 & 21 Farmers' Market Crediton Town Square, 10.00 – 13.00

24 Crediton Town Council meeting, Old Landscore School, 19.00

### February

4 & 18 Farmers' Market Crediton Town Square, 10.00 – 13.00

## Contact Details

### Crediton Town Councillors - Boniface Ward

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### Crediton Town Councillors - Lawrence Ward

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### Rachel Avery (Town Clerk)

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

### District & County Councillors

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Jim Cairney (District)	01363 773490
Frank Letch (District & County)	01363 775739
Andi Wyr (District)	01363 777160

### Useful Contacts

Name	Telephone	Website
Mid Devon District Council	01884 252555	<a href="http://www.middevon.gov.uk">www.middevon.gov.uk</a>
Devon County Council	0845 155 1015	<a href="http://www.devon.gov.uk">www.devon.gov.uk</a>
Crediton Library	01363 772578	

More on our website: [www.crediton.gov.uk/useful-contacts](http://www.crediton.gov.uk/useful-contacts)