

# Crediton Town Council

Strategic Plan 2024-2027



LOCAL COUNCIL  
AWARD SCHEME  
QUALITY GOLD



A Civility & Respect  
Pledge Council

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# Foreword

Crediton Town Council approved its first Strategic Plan in 2017, which was fully reviewed in 2021. This document focuses on our core objectives, and will enable our progress to be measured.

We continue to face a difficult operating environment with reductions in services once provided by Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council, in addition to the cost of living crisis. We have already increased our service delivery to meet the needs of the community and have taken on services previously delivered by these authorities, such as youth work and grass verge cutting. We feel that Crediton deserves and needs further investment in its future.

We continually review and update policies and priorities. Town councillors and staff look forward to being able to deliver these over this plan period.







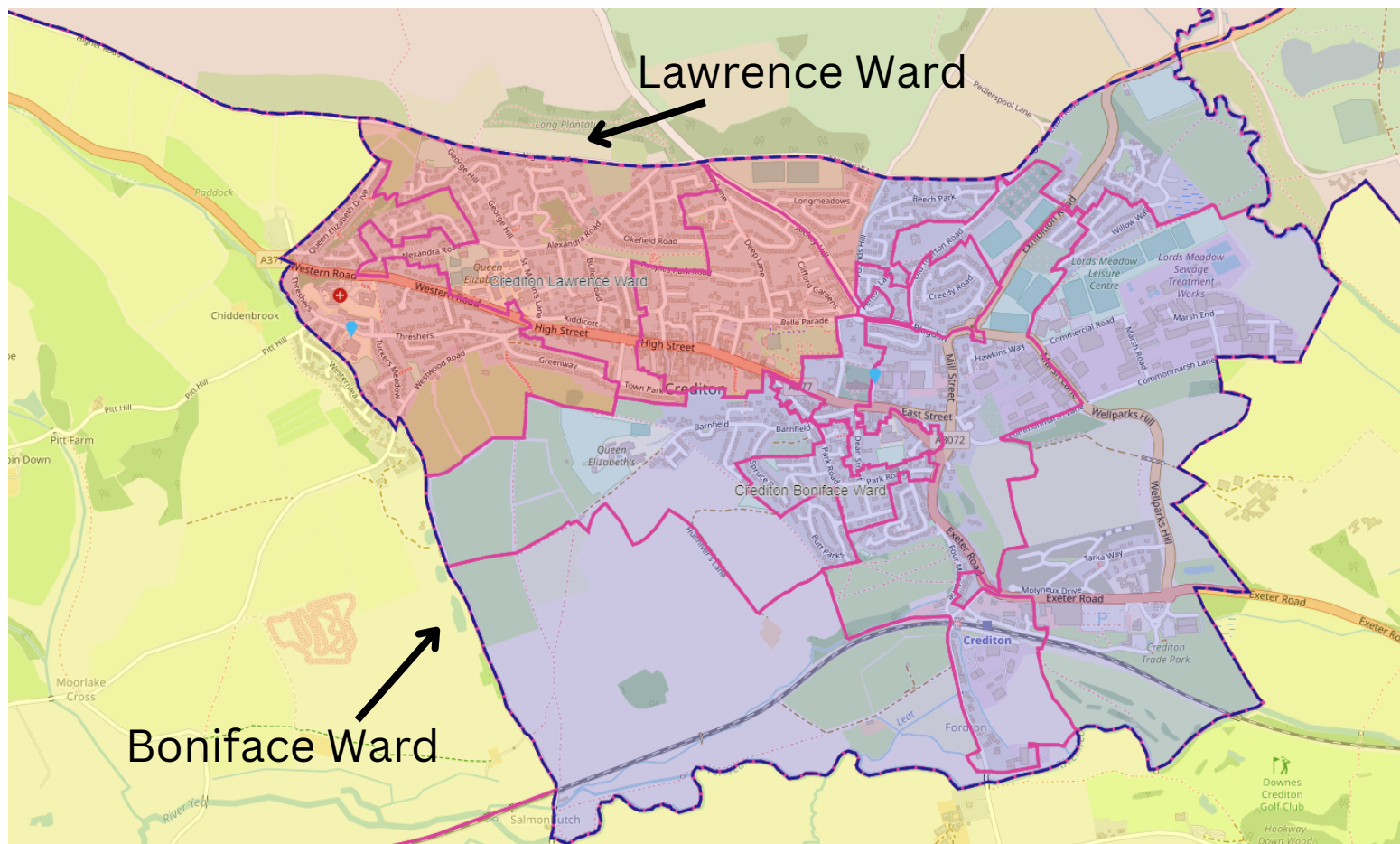
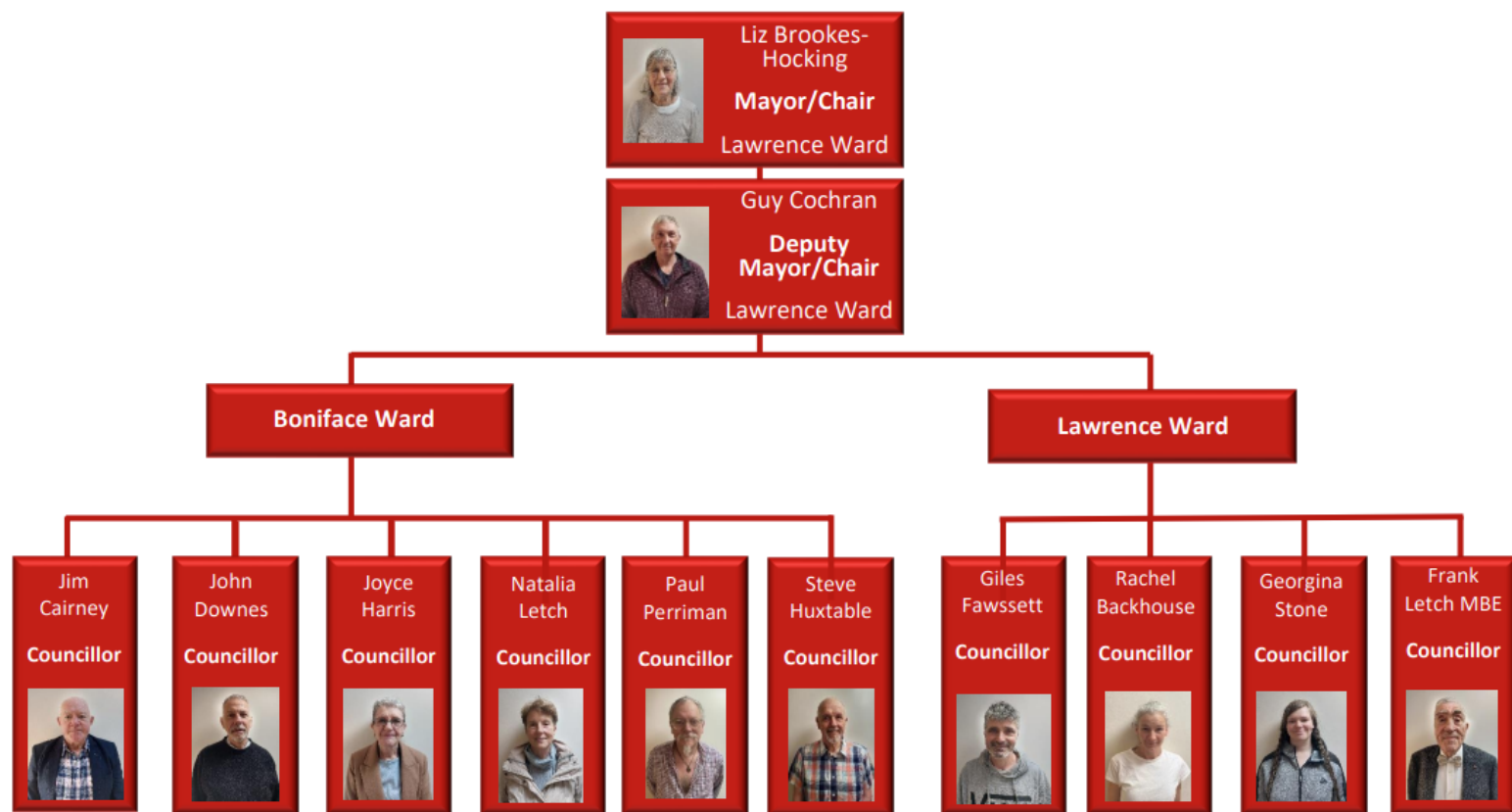
**At the time of the 2021 Census the population of Cridton was estimated to be 8,070.**

**We are the first tier of local government. The others are Devon County Council, the principal authority and Mid Devon District Council.**

**We are committed to ensuring Cridton is a place where people want to live, work and visit by enhancing the built environment, open spaces and services within our remit.**



# Councillors





# Committees

## **Council Affairs and Finance**

Responsible for monitoring the council's financial position, staffing matters, recruitment and training alongside reviewing council policy

## **Planning and Town Strategy**

Comments on planning applications to MDDC, emerging higher level plans and proposals, licensing and highway matters, responsible for the Neighbourhood Plan, community events and new initiatives

## **Community and Environment**

Oversees the maintenance of council-owned property and assets and is responsible for planning future maintenance. Administers the council's three allotment sites, public open spaces and other projects such as Floral Crediton

## **Climate Emergency**

Oversees the review of policies and practices for achieving low carbon/carbon neutral operations and sustainability within the council, and working with our partners on this issue

Two sub-committees support work undertaken by the council: Parish Paths and Grants.

The council may create sub-committees or working groups to progress single projects, with decision-making powers remaining with the relevant committee.





# Review of our Strategic Plan 2021-25

The Strategic Plan focused on the following core aims:

- 1) Responding to development within Crediton
- 2) Providing public services, facilities and open spaces in a more sustainable way
- 3) Building and maintaining relationships with statutory agencies, local community organisations and groups
- 4) Promoting Crediton by encouraging economic development and tourism opportunities
- 5) Strengthening our community by increasing services offered and ensuring they meet its needs to build, strengthen and grow.

This Strategic Plan aims to build on these objectives and actions in order to enhance the services we provide and improve our delivery.



# Reviewing our progress since 2021

## 1) Responding to Development

- Continued to make comments on applications and developments to the Local Planning Authority
- Finalised the Neighbourhood Plan
- Responded to statutory planning documents such as the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan, the Local Plan and associated Design Guide

## 2) Public Services

- Purchased Old Landscore School
- Continued to develop the provision of public services we deliver

## 3) Relationships

- Continued grant aid for community groups and organisations
- Provided councillor representation to outside bodies as requested

## 4) Economic Development

- Organised events that promote the town
- Supported other local events

## 5) Serving the community

- Provided and enhanced youth services
- Investigated potential public assets



# 2024 - 2027

# Objectives

Each year, we will produce action plans for the year ahead using the five objectives set out in the following pages, to guide our work.

The action plans will detail the specific work that will be undertaken in the civic year to contribute to meeting our objectives. The plans will assign a responsible officer and the committee that has oversight of ensuring delivery.

The Town Clerk has the operational responsibility for ensuring the council is delivering this plan, whilst overall accountability rests with the Full Council. All councillors and staff will be aware of this plan and how their work is contributing to the council's strategic aims.

# Objective 1

## Responding to Development

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- An aerial photograph showing a town with numerous houses and buildings, surrounded by green fields and rolling hills under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The town is nestled in a valley, with a mix of residential and commercial buildings. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green fields and some bare trees, suggesting a rural or semi-rural setting.
- Review and update the Neighbourhood Plan
  - Work with other local authorities to progress the Traffic and Urban Realm Study recommendations
  - Ensure that we play an active role in planning decisions and lobby for communication and consultation at pre-application stage
  - Proactively respond and communicate throughout consultation on emerging statutory planning documents and policies
  - Encourage sustainable development where possible, as a commitment to the Climate and Ecological Emergency
  - Engage with the Local Planning Authority on the allocation of developer S106 contributions to appropriate projects in the town
  - Work with our partners to make Crediton a connected town, with cycle route provision being a high priority



# Objective 2

## Providing Services

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- Continue with a youth service to accessible to all young people and develop a 5 year strategy for the provision
  - Work towards our open spaces being accessible to all
  - Ensure that we offer good value for money when providing services, facilities and open spaces
  - Develop the scope and accessibility of our public realm CCTV system
  - Identify, aquire and invest in a public asset building, for town council offices and community use
  - Consider the value to the community and financial implications of taking on devolved services from Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council



# Objective 3

## Building Relationships

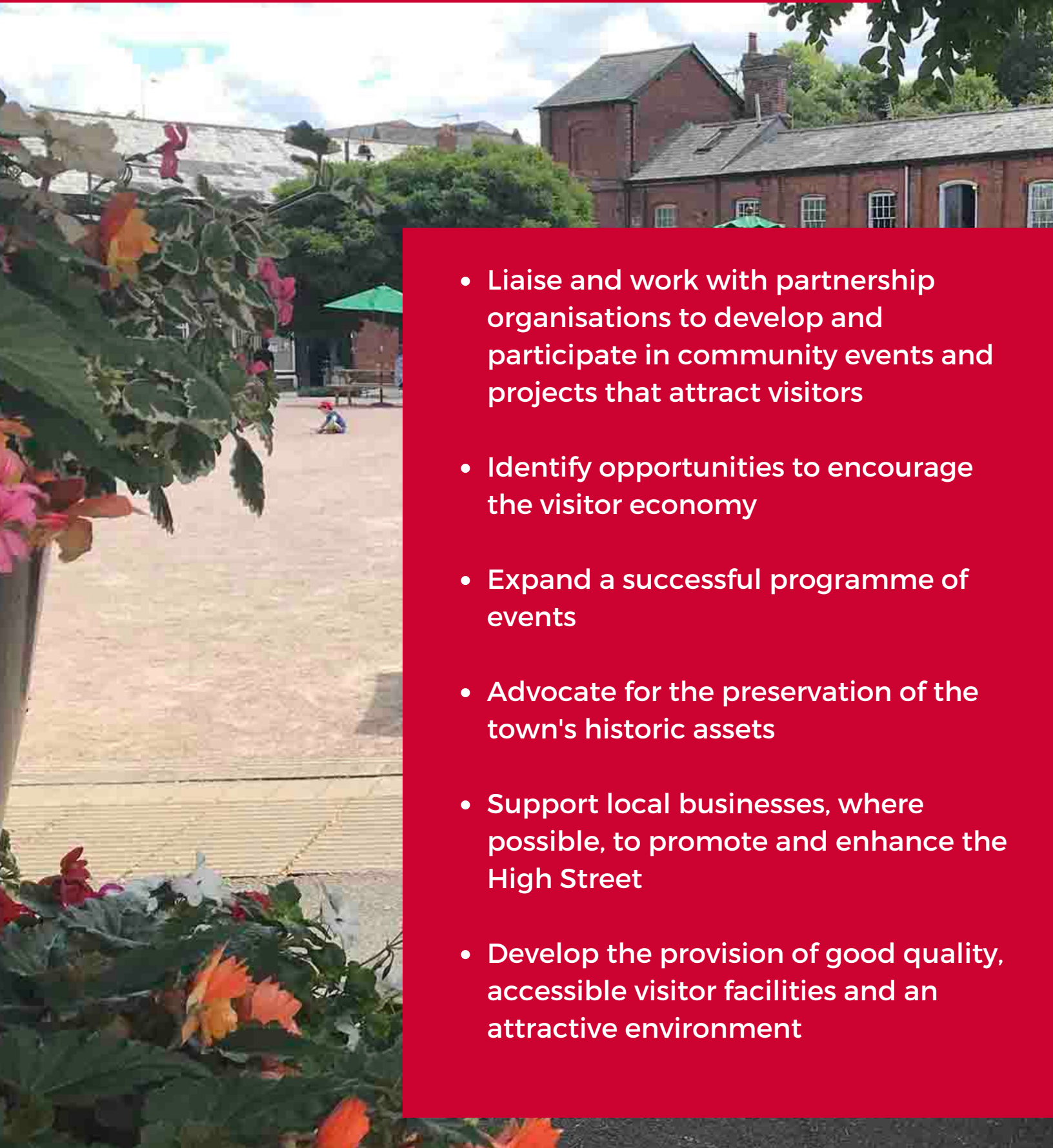


- Play an effective leadership role within Crediton, ensuring members have the skills and training to undertake their responsibilities
- Develop 'cluster' meetings with neighbouring parish councils
- Expand provision of community grants to groups and organisations, to strengthen the health, wellbeing and future of Crediton
- Continue to develop our relationships with DCC, MDDC, community groups and organisations
- Create opportunities for the community to shape Crediton through consultation, surveys, open meetings and other communication



# Objective 4

## Promoting Crediton



- Liaise and work with partnership organisations to develop and participate in community events and projects that attract visitors
- Identify opportunities to encourage the visitor economy
- Expand a successful programme of events
- Advocate for the preservation of the town's historic assets
- Support local businesses, where possible, to promote and enhance the High Street
- Develop the provision of good quality, accessible visitor facilities and an attractive environment



# Objective 5

## Strengthening our community.

- Address the Climate and Ecological Emergencies through emerging policy and practical changes
- Develop closer relationships with our voluntary sector to strengthen the resilience of our community
- Work collaboratively with existing groups and stakeholders to promote the character and importance of our town
- Provide a voice that represents our community and to use effective consultation to do so





# Measuring our progress

This plan focuses the council on its core aims up to 2027, through which we can deliver a vision for improving CREDITON for those who live and work here and those who visit.

Regular monitoring of the plan against actual progress will be integral to delivering the objectives set out.

Alongside the action plans referred to in this document, annual reports will also form part of the delivery of this plan and these will be actively communicated to the public through the website, social media channels and newsletters.

For further information, please visit our website  
[www.crediton.gov.uk](http://www.crediton.gov.uk)  
or contact our office  
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Thank you to CREDITON Heart Project for providing photographs