

**MINUTES** of a **MEETING** of the **CABINET** held on 30 July 2024 at 5.15 pm

**Present  
Councillors**

L Taylor, S J Clist, J Lock, J Buczkowski,  
G Duchesne, S Keable and D Wulff

**Apologies  
Councillor(s)**

N Bradshaw and J Wright

**Also Present  
Councillor(s)**

M D Binks, J Cairney, G Cochran, J M Downes and  
L Knight

**Also Present  
Officer(s):**

Stephen Walford (Chief Executive), Maria De Leburne (Director of Legal, People & Governance (Monitoring Officer), Richard Marsh (Director of Place & Economy), Laura Woon (Democratic Services Manager), Adrian Welsh (Strategic Manager for Growth, Economy and Delivery), Andy Robbins (Project Manager), Sarah Lees (Democratic Services Officer) and Angie Howell (Democratic Services Officer)

**Councillors  
Online**

E Buczkowski, G Czapiewski, A Glover, C Harrower,  
R Roberts and S Robinson

**35. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Cllr N Bradshaw and Cllr J Wright.

**36. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Giles Fawssett**

Crediton High Street used to have some trees.

The Crediton masterplan had trees on the High Street, particularly shown in the CGI illustrations on page 45, 46 and sees planting new trees and urban greens as an opportunity.

Crediton Town Council supports planting trees on the High Street and personally I campaigned on doing just this.

The organisation "Trees For Streets" offers support and advice for getting trees planted in the winter following an application.  
The Woodland Trust offers to pay for trees in Urban areas.

### **Question 1**

Does the Cabinet of Mid Devon District Council fully support applications for planting trees in our High Street as soon as possible and would it support Crediton Town Council in getting Devon County Council to mark the spots for trees, subject to fitting these locations with this masterplan for our lovely town.

### **Response from Cabinet Member for Planning, Economic and Regeneration:**

Just over a year ago the Liberal Democrats campaigned to work with Parish & Town Councils, this also included democratic accountability by bringing decision making closer to communities. This evenings was a first for Mid Devon District Council Cabinet meeting held in Crediton together with audio visual support to enable people to join on-line.

To confirm that Cabinet do support schemes which seek to incorporate tree planting. As you acknowledge; for Crediton High Street, it would be important that Devon County Council take an active lead in this regard given the complex interface between the public highways and utilities. In the meantime, I would comment that the Masterplan also identifies other, non-highways areas for planting which would also be keen to see delivered in the near-term

### **Liz Brookes- Hocking**

Can the Town Council be confident that the entirety of the Neighbourhood plan, including its associated documents, specifically the Crediton Traffic and Urban Realm Study, would stand alongside the Crediton Masterplan SPD and not be negated by it? I am asking this because of paragraphs 6.3 and 6.4 in the Officer's report to Cabinet under Item 5, which mentions the impossibility of providing trees and crossing places without reducing parking. This was not the conclusion of the Traffic and Urban Realm Study and I am concerned that it was going to be ignored in favour of the Masterplan.

I have said all along that the Masterplan and the Traffic Study conflict in certain respects as the first had an economic brief and the second had a traffic brief. Some assumptions are made in the Masterplan which are not necessarily correct. I appreciate that the traffic study was particularly cited on page 43 of the Masterplan, but the Masterplan's proposals conflict to some extent with the Traffic Study's approach which was to keep traffic flowing but at a slower speed.

It would be good to know that all made and adopted plans would stand alongside each other so can we be assured of this?

As an extension to this question, once the Masterplan would be adopted, would there be further opportunities for the Town Council to engage with Mid Devon District Council as proposal are drawn up into delivery as there are several ideas that don't

take into account particular local circumstances that you may not be aware of and there are still some missed opportunities?

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration:**  
A Written response would be provided.

### 37. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

No interests were declared under this item.

Members were reminded of the need to make declarations of interest where appropriate.

### 38. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were **APPROVED** as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Leader.

### 39. **CREDITON MASTERPLAN**

Cabinet had before it a report \* from the Director of Place and Economy on the Crediton Masterplan.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration outlined the contents of the report with Particular reference to the following:

- Cabinet was present at Crediton for this meeting to discuss the important document on the Crediton Masterplan.
- The Masterplan supports both the Mid Devon Local Plan and the Crediton Neighbourhood Plan.
- It drew on previous work that included the traffic and urban realm feasibility study commissioned by the Town Council.
- The masterplan had been informed by two rounds of public consultation that included staffed events, a permanent exhibition at the Town Council offices and direct approaches to over 400 organisations alongside an online questionnaire.
- The Town Council had been part of the process throughout and their ongoing input had proved invaluable in ensuring that the plan meets community aspirations.
- The Terms of Reference for the Crediton Masterplan was drawn up in the Spring of 2023 with Crediton Town Council. This was before the election of the new Mid Devon Liberal Democrat Administration in May 2023. During the process of the last year there had been some criticism from Crediton Town Council. This criticism had been warranted as there had been extensive consultation including a return to the Town Council which had resulted in a delay to tonight's Masterplan bring brought forward to Cabinet.
- To this end the Stage 2 Consultation process included :-
  - I. Online questionnaire; Six weeks, 15/01/2024 – 26/02/2024
  - II. Key stakeholders meeting at Boniface Centre
  - III. Two staffed public drop in events at the Boniface Centre
  - IV. Permanent exhibition at the Town Council Offices

- V. Direct contact with over 400 organisations and individuals via the Council's Local Plan Database
  - VI. Social media/ Press Releases
  - VII. Planning Policy Advisory Group (PPAG) meeting to consider a Report and following this up with a Town Centre Walk around (16/04/2024)
  - VIII. Further consideration by PPAG on June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Generally there was broad support for all of the projects but that the Council notes the sensitivity about the loss of on street car parking, particularly in the High Street and that any changes to Newcombe's Meadow should seek to preserve its current peaceful ambience but that these projects would be subject to further consultation with all stakeholders.
  - Next steps would be mixture of early interventions (eg tree planting and replacement seating in Market Square), further studies (High Street and Newcombe's as described above) and individual projects.
  - There was a good deal of work to be undertaken with the Station and the growing demand for travel on the Tarka Line, where the number of travellers had doubled in the last 10-years. There are now early discussions with GWR and together with the Community Hub in which the Crediton Heart project are interested.
  - The Delivery Plan would be used as a "living" document and would be subject to updates and amendments to guide not just the masterplans specific projects but also some which are not specifically land use related such as promoting tourism opportunities and supporting the business community.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Great opportunities for the community to help shape the future of the town.
- Enhancing of planting trees.
- Concerns of the Café play area and this not being used through certain periods of the year due to weather.
- The impact on other cafes in the area and if it would be economically variable.
- The history and car parking in the area.
- Limited work opportunities in the area.
- The concerns of Crediton becoming a commuting area for those going to work in Exeter.
- The parking within the Newcombe area or places to be able to stop.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. Cabinet members note the comments received at the Stage 2 public consultation (Appendices 2 and 3), the comments of PPAG (Appendix 4) and support the proposed changes as set out in the report.
2. The Cabinet recommend to Council that;
  - i) The Crediton Town Centre Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document and Delivery Plan be adopted; and
  - ii) The Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix 5), Strategic Environmental Screening report (Appendix 6), and the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report (Appendix 7) be noted.

#### 40. CULLOMPTON CRICKET CLUB RELOCATION AND PROJECT UPDATE

Cabinet had before it a report \* and **NOTED** it from the Director of Place and Economy on the Cullompton Cricket Club relocation and project update.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration outlined the contents of the report with Particular reference to the following:

- Members may recall that at the 4<sup>th</sup> June Cabinet meeting they received an update on various strategic transport infrastructure schemes in Cullompton. The report before you today provided a further update on the Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road.
- The town centre relief road was of key importance to improve the amenity of the town centre, tackle air quality problems and unlock housing in the area. The majority of Cullompton residents were keen to get this scheme delivered. In a recent 2024 survey, of 815 local residents, 92% were supportive of the Relief Road proposal.
- At the time the June Cabinet report was written, the officers were expecting a decision from Homes England regarding the possibility of additional funding to ensure delivery of the scheme. The decision was deferred as a result of the general election. Whilst awaiting a decision from Homes England officers had been working hard to ensure that key activities had continued to de-risk the project and that critical path (programme) was maintained. This would ensure swift delivery of the road, should a positive funding decision be confirmed.
- As the relief road route would pass through the existing pitch, a key dependency of the scheme was the relocation of the Cullompton cricket pitch to Horn Road to the east of the Motorway. The early implementation of the Cricket Square was important as it needs sufficient time to settle before games could be played on it and the club could be relocated from its current ground.
- Over recent months there had been very positive progress with partners including the Cricket Club. It was expected that this initial work was planned to start very soon and be completed by the end of September 2024.
- This was a very positive step and was one which should be acknowledged and celebrated as it was the Council which had been the driving force in making this significant step forwards. It had also been crucial in maintaining the programme and hoped that it would demonstrate to Government the serious commitment to seeing the timely delivery of this critical enabling infrastructure for Cullompton and Culm. The Council trust that Government would then, in turn, do their utmost in enabling the delivery of the relief road and, in due course, upgrades to Junction 28.
- Progress with land acquisition had been positive, but productive engagement with Tesco had proved challenging. Both Councils (MDDC and DCC) had been attempting to liaise with Tesco plc to attempt to resolve this issue for a considerable period of time, but progress by Tesco continues to be slow. Richard Ford MP had also now wrote to the Tesco Chairman urging Tesco to urgently progress productive dialogue in relation to the sale of their land.
- Members should be comforted that there was a great deal of work behind the scenes trying to advance this project; however the Council had to see whether they would receive the central government funding they so desperately need to deliver this vital scheme.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The concerns about the recent announcement from Government and what reassurance could be provided in regards to the Cullompton relief road.
- Discussion on the legal requirement and the risk factors of this and what would be in place if the funding was not to go ahead.

#### 41. **NOTIFICATION OF KEY DECISIONS**

The Cabinet had before it and **NOTED** the notification of Key Decisions \*.

The Democratic Services Manager had added and moved the following:

- Team Devon Joint Committee report
- 2024/2025 Budget Monitoring report Q1
- Blackdown Hills National Landscape Management Plan
- Leisure Pricing Strategy
- Future Waste and Recycling options.

Note: \* Notification of Key Decisions previously circulated

#### 42. **THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATES**

Cabinet **NOTED** the next scheduled meeting of Cabinet was 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024 Phoenix House, Tiverton at 5.15pm.

(The meeting ended at 6.30pm)

**CHAIR**