

## **Briefing Note for Scrutiny Committee Crediton and Cullompton Town Centres**

At the Scrutiny Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 it was agreed that a report would come back to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee detailing plans for the improvement of Cullompton and Crediton Town Centres be presented at the next meeting of the Committee.

The purpose of this briefing paper is to make Members aware of the work that the Economic and Community Development team are already doing in terms of the Town Centres of Cullompton and Crediton and to outline some of the projects that are a work in progress.

Both Cullompton and Crediton have Town teams. These groups are made up of representatives from business, community and voluntary groups and local authorities.

### Cullompton Town Team

The Cullompton Town Team has been established for a number of years now and since April 2013 has brought in £114,000 of funding to deliver projects within the town.

Penny Bayer (Grants and Funding Officer) continues to provide support and assistance to the Cullompton Town Team.

Projects that have been delivered over include:

- The first Cullompton food and drink festival which took place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October and was a success
- Cloth trade project
- Shopfront scheme
- Tidying up 'grot spots' in the Town
- Sheep notice boards
- Archive Project

They are working on the following projects:

- Further food and drink projects and festivals for 2016
- Townscape Heritage Initiative – potentially up to £1m external funding to support improvements to town centre conservation area
- Public art projects including improving the entrance to the town
- Tourism projects including town guide, events listing, interactive touch screen information, coach tours
- Art House project

The Cullompton Town Team were recently successful in being awarded £7,500 from the High Street Innovation Fund to help them take forward their future plans.

## Crediton Town Team

The Crediton Town Team is the newest Town Team but it is already delivering projects for the community.

Paul Tucker (Grants and Funding Officer) continues to provide support and assistance to the Crediton Town Team.

Projects that have been delivered over include:

- Crediton Festival 2015
- Christmas plans 2015
- Inaugural St Boniface celebration event 2015

They are working on the following projects:

- Crediton Festival 2017
- Crediton Food Festival 2016 (this will be the 8<sup>th</sup> festival)
- Crediton flags project 2016
- Improving signage on the entry points to the town
- Café culture and improving the use of Crediton Town Square
- Tourism projects
- Creating a 'community and cultural' hub for the town
- St. Boniface celebration and re-enactment/birth of the Christmas Tree on his Feast Day on 5 June 2016, the inaugural event in June 2015 proving to be a greater success than the Town Team had anticipated.

## Business Groups

Amy Dugard (Consultation and Youth Involvement Officer) has been working with the Culm Valley in Business Group to give a liaison role between the business group and the Council.

In Crediton the Chamber of Commerce has recently held an AGM where new appointments were made to the executive posts and these have now been filled by business representatives from the Town Team. We will be looking to offer the same liaison role to Crediton Chamber of Commerce as we have with the business groups in Tiverton and Cullompton.

## Joint working

It is envisaged that by having officers working with and supporting the three towns in the District that we will be able to work together on certain projects and also to share best practice.

This is already starting to take place and an example is a project for coach parking. Officers are working with the Town Teams across the District to develop a package of information that can be promoted to coach companies and proactively marketed with the aim of bringing in tourists.