

S821/2150/MIS

Acc.

**From:** Roger Stephenson  
**Sent:** 27 April 2015 08:18  
**To:** Local Plan Review  
**Subject:** letter from Crediton Town Team  
**Attachments:** Letter from Crediton Town Team 25.4.15.docx

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please see the attached letter from Crediton Town Team about the Local Plan Review Consultation

Regards  
Rosemary Stephenson

5821/2151/S12  
5821/2152/CRE11



Local Plan Review Consultation  
Forward Planning, Mid Devon District Council  
Phoenix House  
Tiverton  
EX16 6PP

25th April 2015

Dear Sirs,

## **Local Plan Review Consultation – a new cultural hub for Crediton**

I am writing to you on behalf of Crediton Town Team to express our support for the proposal to provide a new cultural hub for the town, as expressed by Michael Summerton in his letter to you of 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

The Town Team, which was formed at the instigation of MDDC to help with cultural re-generation, represents businesses and groups from across the community. We believe that Crediton lacks the appropriate facilities to cater for the many cultural groups in the town. This situation is likely to get worse as the town's population increases.

Crediton boasts an extraordinarily vibrant cultural scene for its relatively small population (7,500) and rural location. This includes an Arts Centre, a youth theatre, an operatic and drama group, two dance schools, two art groups, a museum, a youth music collective, a jazz club, two classical concert societies, a town band and several choirs.

In a survey of 17 local groups, conducted jointly by the Crediton Arts Centre and Crediton Operatic and Drama Society, it was shown that 14 of them felt their facilities were not fit for purpose. Most said they lacked the space and equipment to carry out their activities effectively. Even QE Academy, with a strong reputation for the performing arts, said they lack the space to meet the needs of students. All these organisations welcomed the idea of a new cultural facility, which they could use for rehearsals, performances and exhibitions.

Such a building would not simply cater for artistic activities, but could provide a range of facilities and services for all sections of the community, from pre-school children to the elderly. The Town Team believes that it would not only enhance the lives of local residents, but would bring more visitors to the town and accompanying economic benefits.

Supported By:



To explore the concept further, the Town Team has set up a New Cultural Hub sub group, with the specific purpose of conducting a feasibility study, reporting initially, by 30 September 2015.

We would like to express our full support for the recommended amendments to the Local Plan outlined in Michael Summerton's letter, to ensure the town's desire for a new cultural hub is included.

They are as follows:

**1. Page 54. Development Strategy and Strategic Policies. Crediton Policy Statement S12**

Insert a new sub-para e) to supplement sub-para a):

**e) "A proposal to develop cultural, social, performance and presentation facilities for Crediton and its surrounding area by providing a new, unified cultural hub."**

**2. Page 120. Site Allocations. Policy CRE11, Crediton Infrastructure**

Revise sub-para i) as follows:

**"Community facilities including provision for children, youth and the elderly, and a new, unified cultural hub."**

We very much hope you will take account of these amendments, which we feel are the first step towards creating this exciting new facility for the town.

Yours faithfully

Rosemary Stephenson  
Secretary, Crediton Town Team