



Churches Together Around Ludlow



PRESS NOTICE– 2 APRIL 2013

CHURCHES ADDRESS URGENT SOCIAL NEEDS IN LUDLOW

In their well-received report, 'Ludlow Under Pressure', published last year, Churches Together Around Ludlow identified four urgent local needs. Now they are following up with action.

Launched at a public meeting in November attended by over 200 local residents, the report told the bleak story of increasing social need in Ludlow where some wards are amongst the most 20% deprived in England. It identified in particular the anxieties and unacceptable suffering of older people at risk, the needs of people in the 16 - 24 age group, the impact limited community transport has for those seeking work and health care, and the serious shortage of social and affordable housing.

Following that meeting, a steering group comprising people drawn from across the local community was set up to investigate these issues in greater detail. Now a further public meeting is planned for 7.30pm on Thursday 18 April at the Ludlow Methodist Church to hear the group's proposals for practical steps to deal with acute short-term needs, together with a progress report towards further long-term action.

Local MP, Philip Dunne, and County Councillors Martin and Rosanna Taylor-Smith, all of whom were consulted during the preparation of the report, have been invited, along with the Leader of Shropshire Council, Keith Barrow. It is hoped that local residents will again turn out in force to demonstrate the sense of concern which the report has ignited.

Speaking about the forthcoming meeting, Methodist minister The Revd Dr Neil Richardson, who chaired the group which prepared the original report, said "It was always our hope that our report would be a catalyst for change. We all need to appreciate what is happening and why, and decide how we are going to respond. The wellbeing of our community depends in part on state provision. It also depends on neighbourliness, a sense of belonging, trust between people, and a greater measure of equality. So the meeting on 18 April will be concerned with what we can all do to improve the quality of life for everyone in our local community in these harsher economic times."

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. Churches Together Around Ludlow (CTAL) comprises a covenant between the local churches to work in partnership to serve the people of Ludlow and the surrounding villages. Churches participating comprise the Baptist Church, the Church of England (St Laurence's, St John's and St Giles), the Elim Christian Fellowship, the Living Waters Church, the Methodist Church, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and the Roman Catholic Church
2. For further information about the report or about the forthcoming meeting contact The Revd Dr Neil Richardson on 01568 780710.
3. Copies of the report 'Ludlow under Pressure – A Report on Urgent Social Needs' can be obtained from Barry Forrester on 01584 878872