

Churches Together Around Ludlow Ludlow under Pressure Report

Hands Together Ludlow *is a practical response to its call for action*

CTAL proposes to coordinate volunteers from all churches and the wider community to provide help to people who have been referred to them by professional and charitable agencies.

Hands Together Ludlow starts in a small way and could build to significant proportions depending on demand and its effectiveness to satisfy the needs of clients.

If the go ahead is given, a series of pilot schemes will be started to test the concept, the first one being the Hot Pot Pilot Scheme. Training for up to 10 catering volunteers will be given by Grow Cook Share.

To begin with, hot food pots and catering advice will be provided to clients referred by the Ludlow Food Parcel Scheme. The aim is to help clients regain a sustainable life style by providing sustenance and know-how. If this hasn't been achieved after the planned period of help then the relevant professional agency is informed.

It is assumed that the practical and financial help given to people struggling to make ends meet will be just the tonic that most folk will want. If not, their needs are assessed. It might be that over the 6 week period of mentoring work other needs of the clients are brought to light and it is envisaged that a range of different opportunities can be offered.

In the longer term, activities which are planned to be incorporated under the umbrella of Hands Together Ludlow are:

- Community meal centres for lonely old folk be increased in number to one for every day of the week,
- Help to take advantage of Government schemes to provide insulation to the homes of the fuel hit poor,
- Coaching in the use of computers and the internet for those needing help seeking jobs and other social services,
- Practical help around the home for those unable through illness, tiredness, and depression to keep on top of managing their homes.

We have a vision for integrating the generations by providing the youth of Ludlow with meaningful employment opportunities, for example by providing catering contracts to bolster the volunteer base. With the benefits of success and enthusiasm, Hands Together Ludlow can become the volunteer provider of choice in South Shropshire.

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