

Ludlow Under Pressure: A Continuing Need

Ludlow Under Pressure is a CTAL group which was formed as part of the Ludlow churches' response to the recession of 2008, and the consequent cuts (present and still to come) in public services and benefits.. In this situation the churches' vocation and responsibility is to look out for the most vulnerable, to campaign for fairness and justice, and to help develop schemes which might plug some of the gaps in state or council welfare provision.

As part of that response, the group produced two reports, *Ludlow Under Pressure* (2012) and *Ludlow Under Continuing Pressure* (2014), highlighting areas of greatest local need. Their recommendations were warmly received by the churches and endorsed by the Town Council.

Other practical outcomes include *Hands Together Ludlow*, the Fuel Poverty scheme, and the *No Interest Loan Scheme*. The Food Bank, pre-dating the creation of the *L.U.P.* group, continues to be a vital resource for many.

Many organizations and groups contribute to the wellbeing of the community, but the churches have a distinctive role, being not only free of party political constraints but also having a social mission deriving from the Bible – especially the example of Jesus- to challenge injustice and deprivation.

The *Ludlow Under Pressure* group cannot continue its work without new members. This past year ill health and family worries have taken their toll. Several churches are not yet, or no longer represented on the group. The AGM must decide, but we cannot continue as we are. The task is far from finished. There are likely to be tougher times still for the poor and vulnerable, especially in the roll-out of Universal Credit next year. The group can only be effective if recognized and supported by CTAL - i.e. all the churches and congregations. Please give urgent consideration to joining the group, or encouraging others to join.

Resolution: CTAL resolves to

- i) renew L.U.P.s mandate to inform the church community of the effects of cuts to services and of “austerity” policies, on the community, and especially on the most vulnerable,
- ii) support L.U.P. by strongly recommending that every congregation is represented on it.