

LUDLOW IN 2040 - Building a better future for our town

Notes from Meeting at The Charlton Arms Hotel, Ludlow, Wednesday 13th April 2016
(questions and comments from the floor attributed to individuals where known, apologies to those whose names have been omitted – if it was you and you would like your name added please let us know!)

Welcome from Denise Thompson (Chair of Ludlow 21)

Opening address from Richard Davies MBE. Slides from Richard's presentation will be available on the Ludlow 21 website.

Q&A for Richard:

Q: A lot of what you said was about energy production and use and the CO₂ emissions produced from that. This does not take into account the whole life of the products we consume, including manufacture and disposal. How do we get a better grip on that?

A: Yes, we need to get a better handle on this, e.g. is it better to buy the new, fuel-efficient car or keep the old one running? Some information is out there, and someone in the room may wish to spend time researching this and disseminate information.

Q: How do we make decisions about how to improve our sustainability without compromising the needs of disadvantaged communities in the UK and the developing world? e.g. if we choose not to buy mass-manufactured goods we are depriving people of jobs; if we campaign to reduce CO₂ emissions we are denying people in the developing world the chance to enjoy the lifestyle we have.

A: There are examples of people in developing countries 'leapfrogging' the stages of development that others have gone through by adopting renewable technologies. Part of what you choose to do in Ludlow may address the divide between more and less advantaged residents of the town.

Q: Does local and sustainable mean small? Economies of scale mean pressure for larger organisations. How do you square small-scale sustainable with large-scale efficiency?

A: Some things work at a small scale, others don't – you can't do everything. Need to look at options and decide what *can* be done locally.

Rosemary Wood drew the meeting's attention to plans to start a 'Friends of the Corve and Teme' group, looking at all the things that can be done to improve the rivers and alleviate flooding. For more information contact rosemary.wood9@btinternet.com, 01584 877771

Introduction of Panel:

The panel introduced themselves and gave their responses to Richard's presentation.

Jean Jarvis MBE, Chief Executive of The Furniture Scheme.

Jean expressed support for the aims of the meeting and outlined the many projects of the Furniture Scheme, drawing people's attention to the new newsletter (available at <http://www.furniturescheme.co.uk/>). Jean also expressed an interest in the Repair Cafe idea in Richard's presentation.

Richard Morley, Manager, South Shropshire Youth Forum

Richard introduced himself and his work and expressed support for the aims of the meeting. Richard's role is to represent young people and their needs – these needs change as new young people come through the doors all the time. The Youth Forum is a

charity and as such is particularly keen to develop volunteers.

Cllr Andy Boddington, Shropshire Councillor.

Andy introduced himself and his background and expressed support for the aims of the meeting. The Government cuts to Local Government funding are leading to major cutbacks by Shropshire Council. Local councils e.g. Ludlow Town Council will be expected to cover on a local basis the services that are being cut. This presents many threats, but also opportunities.

Cllr Paul Draper, Mayor of Ludlow

Thanks and support for the organisers of the meeting. The Town Council is facing service cuts and a change in the landscape of service supply, and will need to find ways to address this. Also the new Ludlow Town Plan for the next 5 years is currently being formulated.

Robin Pote, Chairman, Ludlow Town Centre Residents' Association

Robin introduced himself as a member of Ludlow 21 and also representing the approx. 160 members of the Residents' Association. Fully support the aims of this meeting. This is a great town and one worthy of being a UK leader in a sustainable future. Will keep members informed and hopefully provide some expertise. May need to look at expanding the remit of the Residents' Association to cover the whole town.

There then followed a Q&A session with questions for the panel and discussion from the floor.

Q (Chris Deaves): Could all waste and street cleansing services currently run by Shropshire Council be taken on locally e.g. by setting up a CIC (Community Interest Company) or by using volunteers?

A:

(Robin Pote) – Yes, in theory.

(Andy Boddington) – Yes, with the caveat of the existing 20 yr contract with Veolia.

(Jean Jarvis) – One of the Furniture Scheme's projects is a Social Enterprise grounds maintenance and cleaning company.

Q (Eryn Lawley): As a young person, what can I get involved in as part of this process?

A:

(Jean Jarvis) – get in touch with the Furniture Scheme and the Youth Forum about volunteering.

(Richard Morley) – Get in touch with the Youth Forum.

(Alan Stewart) – Green Drinks is an informal get together on the 21st of each month at the Blue Boar in Ludlow where you can find out what's going on and discuss green issues (you don't have to drink and are welcome so long as you are old enough to be on licensed premises or are accompanied by an adult.)

(Paul Draper) – Young people are very welcome to express their views to the Town Council.

(Tish Dockerty) – There are many good organisations and projects in Ludlow. We need a new cohort of young(er) people to take things forward. For example the 'Incredible, Edible Ludlow' project would love to have more volunteers.

(unknown) - Young people and children should have some form of recognition of what they are contributing and that they are part of the future.

(Alan Stewart) – Ludlow Infants School have received the Green Flag Eco-schools award. This national scheme is one good way of recognising the contributions of children and young people.

(Jessica Jackson) – very interested in how we can involve young people and also address the divide between the well-off and not so well-off in Ludlow and bring people into the centre of town.

(Peter Norman) – There is a threat to Ludlow Foyer and Youth Services. Ludlow Campaign for Fairness have decided to focus on this and explore the feasibility of a campaign to keep the Foyer open. This will be a campaign for the community and in particular young people to get behind.

(Denise Thompson) – Ludlow 21 has resolved to set up a youth section, not quite sure what this will entail yet but would welcome the involvement of any young people who would like to help shape it.

(unknown) - We don't know enough about the volunteering opportunities there are. We need a (possibly) online resource to put potential volunteers in touch with people who need them.

(Andy Boddington) – Shropshire Council are planning a Community Interchange website, have funding for it, will circulate info soon.

(Jean Jarvis) – The Furniture Scheme runs an online Community Directory, Shropshire wide.

(Jessica Jackson) – Could Green Shropshire Exchange produce a database / digest of events and volunteer opportunities?

(David Currant) – GSX (Green Shropshire Exchange) has an events calendar, not sure if they have resources for a volunteering database.

(unknown) – Try not to limit it to the county boundaries, there will be people doing good things nearby that could be linked with.

(Steven Mapes, Dinham Millennium Green Charity) – This is a very welcome process and has brought up things our organisation were not aware of. We hope to be able to work together with some of the other organisations here tonight e.g. Furniture Scheme.

(Peter Norman) - There is a good deal of goodwill amongst individuals and organisations in Ludlow. Ludlow 21 as a name does not capture / communicate very well the aims of tonight. We need an umbrella organisation with a name which captures what this is all about.

(Richard Davies) – a suggestion: LARCs (Ludlow Action to Reduce Carbon)

(Alan Stewart) – Vision 21 already exists as a name for the process begun by Ludlow 21 last year.

(Andy Boddington) – likes the name Ludlow 2040. Lots of the older members of the community will no longer be active by then, so we need to engage more young people.

(Robin Pote) – we need someone to gather together all the information from this process.

Thanks and Close (Denise Thompson)

Ludlow 21 propose to get together all the information discussed tonight and circulate along with the attendance list. A meeting has been arranged probably for May 19th, where a name and structure will be agreed and this process will be taken forward.