

# Ludlow 21 Chair's and group reports, AGM 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023

## Chair's Report - (Tish Dockerty 2023)

For those that are **new to Ludlow 21** – we are a first and foremost a **community group**, focused on **environmental issues**, we're now **25 years old** with a **significant archive of achievements**.

We are a membership organisation with just over **50 paid up members** (if you are not a member you may wish to join us) and we are formally a '**not for profit**' **company limited by guarantee**, with a board of accountable directors, articles of association and a secretary. Hence why we have **Annual General Meetings**, submit accounts to **Companies House**.

In 2022/23, I'm pleased to say the '**Family**' sub -groups that make up Ludlow 21 have been highly active and you'll get a chance to hear from them later: They include **Sustainable Transport, Fairtrade, Energy, Climate Friendly Diet and Incredible Edible, Green Festival and a new member as of this year The Ludlow Repair Cafe** and now just 2 'Friends' **GSX and Local to Ludlow** as the Car Club has been taken over by a separate entity.

Ludlow 21 is a **sum of its parts** –its energy is within the **friends and family** groups associated with it and it also **acts as a catalyst for other local groups** that are working in the area of environmental issues. An example being this evening's Green Power Hour where we have invited other local groups to share their news.

As an organisation, Ludlow 21 can **provide support and funds** for new groups and initiatives, we very much welcome **new blood/volunteers people** that want to make a difference and **get busy with any new ideas**. We are an open door.

I've now been Chair of **Ludlow 21 since 2016, (seven years)** and it was on the understanding that I would do it **for a year and see the organisation through a very sticky phase after a period of mass resignations**. At the time I made it very clear that, whilst Chair in name, I had very little additional time to give the organisation as I have many other commitments.

Ludlow 21 is now **financially and organisationally in a stronger place than it was when I took over**. I would like to think I have done my bit and that there is possibly someone else that may have **a bit more time and energy** that could take on the helm.

However, in the meantime I would very much like to thank all members of the Ludlow 21 Board for their contributions, efforts and energy as well as officers that do the essential work that allows us to function. These include **Megan Blackmore, our secretary** for assiduous attention to detail and **Claire Currant that manages our membership**.

This evening let's take a **little time to celebrate the achievements of the group's associated with Ludlow 21** and the other groups that are present here this evening.

## **Ludlow 21 Energy Group**

A lot of activity has been taking place behind the scenes with Shropshire Council.

This has included:

Submissions regarding the Shropshire Local Plan and carbon reduction

Design of a community benefit protocol for solar farms

Responding to consultations on wind farm planning policy

Working on renewable energy generation with local parishes and with the industry on new forms of grid design.

The Neen Sollars hydro scheme continues to work well, water permitting, and has now delivered well over 20MW of power to the grid.

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## **Climate Friendly Diet Group**

In 2023 the group ran Climate Friendly Shared Suppers at St Peter's Church hall in February, March, April and May, where participants shared plant-based dishes and recipes. A collection of recipes was begun on the Ludlow 21 website.

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## **Ludlow Repair Café**

Ludlow Repair Café was set up in 2016 and it recently joined as a Ludlow 21 'Family' member. The Repair Café meets four times per year in January, April, July and October but offers repairs throughout the year with its At-Home Service.

The Repair Café took two years to cover its start-up and running costs as it receives no funding but it is now self-sufficient with donations in excess of its expenditure.

The main out goings are for venue hire, advertising, printing, insurance, maintaining a communal tool-box for use at the Café events, and in 2022, two second-hand PAT test machines were purchased which are re-calibrated annually.

The Ludlow Repair team continues to embrace an ever-expanding range of items and is backed up with a strong and highly efficient admin team. For the first time this year, Ludlow Repair Café featured at the Green Festival with some of the team doing a repair 'showcase' explaining the repair currently being carried out but mostly just chatting to visitors and raising the profile and the benefits of repairing versus replacing generally.

## **Fairtrade Town Group**

Following the Pandemic period, the Group made a huge effort to get back into the swing of running full and unrestricted interaction with the public in our promotion of Fairtrade in the town.

- We took part in the Eco Carnival parade in June 22 and had a successful Fairtrade stall including children's activities at the Green Festival in July
- A grant for new signage for the Fairtrade flower bed next to the cannon was given by Mid Counties Coop.
- The schools sub group made contact with a number of schools both state and private and ran assemblies and class sessions.
- The Traidcraft Christmas Fair, and a regular monthly market stall and stalls in Wesley's Café and in St Laurence's Church continued throughout 2022. Unfortunately Traidcraft went into administration early in 2023 and the outlet in LMC has ceased to exist.
- The group is reinventing itself without the significant presence of a regular supply of Fairtrade and fairly traded products to sell. St Laurence continues to run a Sunday Fairtrade stall with goods supplied by other means.
- Fairtrade Fortnight 2023 included a sale of Traidcraft goods and two Big Brews raising funds for Transform Trade (Trade Development charity). We held a market stall highlighting endangered products such as coffee and chocolate because of climate change.

### **Current and future plans beyond the scope of this 22/23 AGM**

- We have a Fairtrade rep appointed to the Chamber of Commerce committee
- A successful Slow Fashion stall was run at the 2023 Green Festival which provided lots of information on the impact that clothes manufacture around the world has on suppliers and makers and on the environment - 'who made my clothes?' and 'What's in my clothes?'
- We are gradually making progress on the next version of the Fairtrade Shopping Guide for which we have funding from the Town Council.
- The Fairtrade flower bed revamp has been completed thanks to work carried out through the Town Council and to grants from Ludlow 21 and Ludlow Chamber.
- Local schools are being re-contacted as the new academic year starts.
- It is hoped to run a special stall leading up to Christmas to promote Fairtrade/ fair trade crafts and chocolate and draw attention to the impact of climate change in developing countries.

## **Incredible Edible Ludlow**

This year we have:

- Planted new fruit trees at Housman Crescent in partnership with Ludlow Town Council.
- Planted new fruit trees at Clee St Margaret village hall with local residents.
- Pruned and labelled fruit trees which were planted in the Station Drive area in 2017, encouraging people to pick the fruit.
- Held a very successful seed swap event in March, this year for the first time in partnership with Ludlow Library, attended by over 150 people. We also donated to the library a copy of the book 'Incredible Edible: Seeds to Solutions' by Pam Warhurst, one of the founders of the Incredible Edible movement.
- Run a family activity, potting up seeds into hand made newspaper pots, at two Local to Ludlow markets in February and April.
- Contributed funding to Friends of Ludlow Library for new planters to be placed in the paved area outside the library and planted with edibles.
- Created an attractive new banner from recycled fabrics, to raise our profile at stalls and events.
- Run a stall at the Green Festival incorporating a plant and produce swap.
- Contributed trays of edible plants and wildflowers for the 'create your own world' family activity at the Green Festival.

### **Future plans:**

We hope to run the seed swap event again in 2024, and also a seedling swap later in the spring.

We are organising a fruit tree grafting workshop which will generate some more stock for our planting projects and allow participants to take home the results of their grafting for a small charge.

## Ludlow 21 Sustainable Transport Group

This year the STG has achieved most of its original targets.

**Walking and Cycling:** we were deeply involved in the work which went into Shropshire Council's Local Walking and Cycling Plan for Ludlow and delighted that this has now been approved by Ludlow Town Council. It will enable many of our plans to improve walking and cycling facilities in our town.

**Trains:** Our excellent relationship with Transport for Wales and Network Rail has resulted in the culmination of most of the primary objectives set out in our 2014 report:

**Forecourt Parking:** The dangerous parking of vehicles outside the entrance to the station has now been stopped with temporary barriers which are expected to be replaced by permanent (and more attractive) barriers once the new lift has been installed.

**The lift** on platform 1 is scheduled to be completed in the spring of next year so that passengers unable to use the steps will no longer have to use the impractical footpath over the tunnel.

**Ticket machines** have been installed and we are still hoping that **cctv** cameras will eventually be installed.

**Planters** Once the lift is completed, new planters will be installed on both platforms with the agreement of Network Rail, further enhancing the station experience for passengers.

### Buses:

**Bus Shelters:** Following our long campaign for more bus shelters in Ludlow, we are grateful to our Town Council for agreeing to purchase one shelter each year for the town. The 5<sup>th</sup> shelter was installed this year on Sandpits Avenue.

**Ludlow Bus Timetable:** Our bus timetable leaflets have proved to be very popular, and the Council continues to support their publication.

### Cars:

**Car Club:** 2023 was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Shropshire Car Club and we were able to hand over control of the club to CO-Wheels as a profitable business. We hope that the club will now go from strength to strength.

**EV Charging Points:** The programme of EV Charging point installation throughout the town continues to be supported by the Council and we will continue to press Shropshire Council for more.

**20MPH:** Our campaign to make Ludlow town centre a 20mph zone received backing from our Town Council some years ago and is, at last being acknowledged within the LCWIP. Unfortunately, Shropshire Council still does not agree to a county wide 20mph speed limit on all residential areas despite the majority of the county's towns requesting this.