

## Vandals Damage The Buttercross, Ludlow

At 2am Saturday morning vandals caused a loud crash as they pulled the stone Mill Wheel from the wall in the Buttercross.

The Town Council were alerted by an emailed picture of the dislodged the stone wheel from a Councillor, and DLF Supervisor, Sean Turgoose and another Town Councillor secured the mill wheel, but as they were doing so the Councillor noticed a crack, now believed to be caused by shock waves from the weight of the falling stone mill wheel, which ran across the end block of the wall.

Immediate concerns were raised and Shropshire Council Historic Environment Manager, Colin Richards was asked to assess the condition of the wall - overnight monitoring revealed the crack was widening.

An emergency plan of action was devised by the Town Clerk and executed by Deputy Clerk, Gina Wilding. On Sunday, a scaffolding firm created a clamp to support the wall and make the building safe. Shropshire Council Highways supplied barriers to cordon off the area and a structural engineer arrived to investigate the crack. The structural investigation is currently ongoing and English Heritage will advise on works to the Grade I listed building.

Deputy Town Clerk, Gina Wilding said, 'We owe a great deal to Colin Richards and Shropshire Council for their quick response and expert assistance.'

It is expected that the fencing and scaffolding will remain in place until the situation has been fully assessed, and in the interests of safety, vehicles are not able to drive by the Buttercross from High Street or College Street. Pedestrian access is available to The Church Inn and all businesses in Church Street are open as usual.



**Below:** Town Council and Shropshire Council staff working to secure the area



**Above L-R:** Colin Richards Historic Environment Manager and Mayor of Ludlow, Cllr Tony Pound inspect the cracks at the Buttercross