



Market town grants boost Ludlow economy

Ludlow's three Shropshire councillors, Rosanna Taylor-Smith, Martin Taylor-Smith and Tracey Huffer are delighted to announce that four successful schemes have been approved for grants from Ludlow's £400,000 allocation of Shropshire Council's Market Towns Revitalisation Programme.

A special meeting of the Ludlow and Clee Local Joint Committee held on 30th March, heard that the following grants were successful:

- Ludlow College is awarded £60,000 towards a Hospitality Training Kitchen, which will be in use from September 2011 and allow up to 48 students each year to be trained.
- Ludlow Assembly Rooms is awarded £70,000 towards the refurbishment of the inside of the building.
- Ludlow Conference Centre is awarded £100,000 to assist with the refurbishment and extension to the accommodation areas – a scheme which will see trainee doctors from Keele University live in Ludlow whilst on work placements with local GPs.
- Ludlow Town Council's Ludlow Conservation Area Revitalisation Project is awarded £120,000 towards a major scheme for the town – the first phase will be the renovation of the Buttercross to include an interpretation centre. Further phases of this project include repairing the town's walls, which will provide 80 job opportunities, preserving traditional skills and crafts and also the enhancement of the Castle Gardens.

This leaves £50,000 of the £400,000 still to be allocated and further projects are currently being worked on with Shropshire Council officers.

Ludlow Town Council has worked alongside Shropshire Council for several months on the selection of the projects for this funding and Councillor John Aitken, Mayor for Ludlow said: "The projects put forward for Market Towns Revitalisation funding are supported by the town council, which held consultation for the town and invited ideas on how the money could be spent. More than 20 proposals were made to the town council, who by democratic selection, then formally presented six projects to Shropshire Council."

Rosanna Taylor-Smith, Chairman of Ludlow and Clee Local Joint Committee, said: "In addition to revitalising the town, these schemes will give a much needed boost to the local economy whilst at the same time, creating new jobs as well as protecting existing employment. At our next Local Joint Committee meeting on 23 June, 7pm at Oscars in the Ludlow Assembly Rooms, we will have an update on the progress of these projects and also any others that may be allocated funding."

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