



# **Annual Report 2011-2012**



**A report of the services provided and activities undertaken throughout the previous year by the staff and Councillors of Ludlow Town Council**

**Prepared by the staff of Ludlow Town Council for the Mayor of Ludlow Councillor John Aitken**

## Annual Report 2011/12

This is my Annual Report for 2011/2012 as Mayor of Ludlow, in my second term of office and prepared for me by the Town Council's staff.

### THE BUTTERCROSS



Planning permission was granted this year for the Buttercross to become the new Heritage Interpretation Centre at the heart of the town to inspire visitors to visit the wealth of historic sites and places of interest within the town.

Repairs to the interior await the outcome of a Heritage Lottery fund bid which has at its centre the Buttercross as a place of learning and education with a new role within the community. The Town Council received support from the community for £120,000 of the Shropshire Council Revitalisation fund has been allocated as match funding for this bid for the town which will bring in massive investment in skills training. We were proud to be awarded a Heritage Award from Shropshire Council and the Ludlow Area Conservation Advisory Committee. The Heritage Lottery bid includes the much needed restoration of the Ludlow Town Walls, improvements to Castle Gardens and recreation of lost walks around the Castle and the former extension to the Bread Walk washed away in floods of 1886.

### LINNEY RIVERSIDE PARK



#### Erosion Works

The park had become unsightly and fallen into disuse as the equipment within it had deteriorated and was either taken away for safety reasons or in need of replacement .

The first phase of work to the Linney was to prevent further bank erosion and this was completed last autumn with the addition of a new floating pontoon / jetty for canoeists to access the river when high. As it floats the jetty is always available to launch a canoe which would otherwise be under water.

Without the essential anti-erosion measures the bank would have continued to recede and take the rest of the land with it. **The second phase of work was carried out over the winter** and this was groundwork to provide a picnic area and

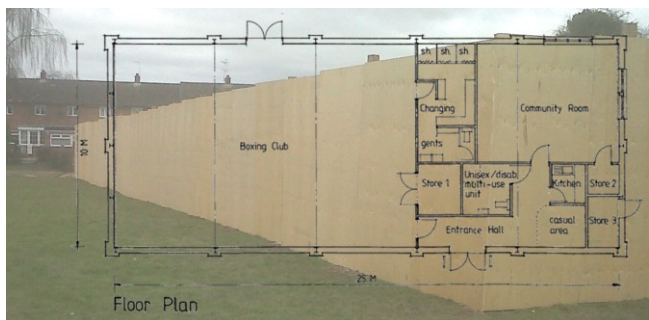


children's play area. This was supported by a number of people who grouped together to campaign for a new park and we set up a formal group with a constitution in order to attract more funding to finish the park. This was provided by the Big Lottery and supplemented by Shropshire Council..

### **Completion of the Linney Riverside Park**

The Linney Riverside Park was opened by Philip Dunne, MP for Ludlow and myself last month with Friends of the Linney Riverside Park. This has been made possible by grant Assistance from Shropshire Council's s106 monies in the sum of £32,000 for play areas in Ludlow and the £50,000 grant from the Big Lottery fund. Thanks also go to the Friends of the Linney Riverside Park who have helped to make this happen and Mellington Nurseries for their contribution.

### **BOXING CLUB**



In September 2011 the Town Council received £30,000 from Shropshire Council's Community Fund towards the building of this facility. A further £7,000 was granted by Ludlow and Clee Local Joint Committee for the building and Shropshire Housing Association, Total Response Ltd, Travis Perkins and Stephen Weaver, amongst others are providing general

assistance to bring the project to a conclusion.

The project suffered a few delays because of different constraints and health and safety legislation and without the support of Shropshire Housing Association and Total Response limited, who are the 'principal contractor' the project would never have been possible. In addition Colin Richards MBE, the Head of Conservation at Shropshire Council has agreed to be project manager and has been seconded for the period of the build. The new boxing club below indicates the space the building will provide, not only for a boxing club but a community room, kitchen, changing rooms and kitchen facilities. The old boxing club was demolished in December of last year and work continues towards its completion in 2012.



### **Transfer of Castle Street and Smithfield Public Toilets for Street Lights**

These were the subject of a swap of Street Lights for with Shropshire Council and have been run by Ludlow Town Council since April 2011. These facilities are in addition to those at Linney Riverside Park and Henley Road Cemetery, providing the necessary facilities for the public.

As the toilets at Castle street are metered we are able to provide accurate figures of the annual usage for 2011 – 2012:





Toilet 1 Next to Office:- 34,505

Toilet 2 :- 40,481

Toilet 3 with Radar key access:- 33,082

Urinal - 103,004

As you can see they are well used and we hope that the service we provide is the best service possible within these facilities. The Shropshire Council promised that they would refurbish Smithfield Toilets (shown above) and have lived up to this promise providing automated locking devices and also coin boxes for the future charging proposals set at 20p a time for these facilities to pay for the overheads.

### **Houseman Crescent Play Area**

In excess of £10,000 was allocated to refurbish existing swings, see-saw, slide and the introduction of safe play surfacing and a new multi-functional climbing equipment was fitted. This was provided from the £32,000 S106 Monies provided by Shropshire Council. Sadly, within the first week of its life the equipment was vandalised but has now been re-instated for the enjoyment of the children in the community. The damaged small swing for toddlers has also been replaced at the request of local residents.



### **The Guildhall**

The Guildhall became vacant in September 2011 when the Magistrates and Courts Association vacated, bringing to an end a Court presence in Ludlow after 600 years. Prior to their departure the public were invited to view the courtrooms and a new book was launched by the Ludlow Historical Research Group on The Guildhall, written by Madge Moran. The building is of significant heritage to Ludlow being built in 1411, It has a Georgian frontage, is oak-framed and has an underlying aisled hall. The public has been consulted on how the building should be used in future and various options discussed have included resuming occupation as the base for the Town Council's Offices, a dental surgery, indoor



market, community centre, restaurant and theatre-company. Currently the building is being marketed by inviting expressions of interest and is still vacant.

### **LUDLOW IN BLOOM – GOLD AGAIN**

Thanks to the efforts of the Ludlow in Bloom Team and our own grounds force Ludlow was awarded Gold again. Our grounds force is also responsible for grass cutting and planting in the town centre public areas, and across Ludlow, including St Johns Gardens, Wheeler Road Recreation Area & Skate Park and



Henley Road Cemetery. We also maintain many areas in Henley Orchards Castle Gardens Weyman Road and Housman Crescent Play areas. Old Street beds and St John's Gardens and the garden of rest at St Laurence's Church also comes under our jurisdiction.



### **QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

With the Queen's Diamond Jubilee being celebrated in 2012 many events have been planned between the 2-5 June which will include fireworks and a beacon on Whitcliffe Common, music, 'Big Lunch' and themed dances.

### **OLYMPIAD CELEBRATION MARKET**

With the procession for the Olympic Torch coming through Ludlow, plans have been made for an Olympiad Market on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Planning has started in earnest for celebrations to wish the Olympic team all the best in the games. There will be a party in the Market Square lots of music and fun and the preparations had to be started in this municipal year.

## **Key Achievements & Developments in 2011 - 2012**

**Heritage Award** – The Buttercross was awarded a Heritage Award for the restoration as were the people who helped in achieving it including the Town Clerk Joiners and craftsmen from Treasure's and Son and Architects. The Linney Riverside Park was also nominated and although not successful as it was incomplete, it will be considered again in 2012.

**Street Trading** – The Town Council became the Street Trading Authority in April 2011. We formed our own Policy and received over £7,000 income the first year. Street trading works well alongside the market and enables the Town Council to manage its space more efficiently. This retains local control of these activities.

**Garden of Rest** – The Garden of rest has been maintained by the Town Council for years for St Laurence's Church, who are the owners and we receive a Grant from Shropshire Council to pay for the costs.

### **Fishmore Play area**

The Town Council maintained this grassed area for 11 years however it was discovered this year that we as a Town Council have no responsibility to maintain it. It is now being maintained by Shropshire Council.

## Town Council Newsletter – Buttercross Bulletin

We continue to distribute 5000 Paper Town Council/Buttercross Bulletins. The Newsletter is also available from [www.ludlow.gov.uk](http://www.ludlow.gov.uk)

**Buttercross Phase III and HLF Bid** – It was expected that the phase III, internal ceiling works, would have commenced in the latter part of 2011. This has been delayed, as English Heritage has suggested that it is part of the £1.9m Heritage Lottery Fund Bid which will include the Buttercross, Town Walls, walks, paths around the Castle and a proposed extension to the Breadwalk. If the bid is successful it is hoped that the Buttercross will have a sustainable use for the future as a Heritage/Interpretation Centre for tourists, visiting children and of course also our local community and by education, will protect the other key heritage sites in Ludlow, improve tourism, creating jobs and boost the local economy. It offers valuable training opportunities. Links have already been made with Hereford College who are offering building courses and are keen to be involved in repairing and restoring the Town Walls.



## Mace Stands

Three Mace Stands for the Town's silver maces have been commissioned and will be displayed at the Annual Town Residents Meeting.

## Annual Events

**Christmas Lights** – The 2011 Christmas lights had a new addition of a motif this year over Corve Street. There was a double switch on with the Rotary Tree of Life being switched on by John Challis (Boychie) on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2011, and a torch lit parade. Fusion dance also entertained the crowds with cheerleaders, adding to the cheer of the cold evening. The evening was accompanied by Bella Acapella.



**Santa's Grotto** – The Town Council organised a Santa's grotto with free presents to all children who attended on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2011, before the 'Switch on'.



## Rotary/Garden of Light

Last year saw the Rotary Tree of Light being moved to Castle Gardens with a torch lit procession by myself, Councillors and the public being made around the Castle Square to the Tree of Light.





**Senior Citizens Party** – Last year, the 8<sup>th</sup> December saw a change of venue for the Senior Citizens Christmas party to Ludlow College. With the introduction of a catering course at the College, this was an opportunity for students to showcase their new skills and for the Town Council to forge links with the College. As per previous years, the party was open to all residents of Ludlow over the age of sixty and included bingo and a raffle, with many of the prizes kindly donated by businesses and residents of Ludlow. The Performing Arts students staged a play and entertainment was supplied by the 'Get Back Duo' band and finished with

glow stick finale. As it was such a success the Senior Citizen's party will again for 2012 be hosted by Ludlow College.

**Remembrance Sunday** – In 2011, a Remembrance Service was held on the 11.11.11, with the Royal Naval Association laying a wreath at the War Memorial and leading the service. Remembrance Sunday was celebrated with a procession to the War Memorial on the Sunday and Service at St Laurence's Church. It was described by the Honorary Alderman, Major Coles as being "the best event for 40 years." Grayce and Mel from the Foyer were the official photographers on the day and took superb photos used in the local press.



**Mayor Making** – Was held once more in the Auditorium of Ludlow Assembly Rooms on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011. Seven Civic Awards were given out in recognition of excellence in the voluntary sector and services to the community to: Abbey Bradley, Christine Hatt, Jean Griffin & Esmé Brown, Pat Gormley, Philip Nash and John Spittle.

**Mayfair Service** – The Venerable Colin Williams held a Mayfair Service on the dodgems at Ludlow Mayfair at 11am on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011 and was enjoyed by all.

**Wheeler Road Youth Festival** – Following the success of the 2010 Youth Festival organised by the Ludlow Assembly Rooms, the event was held again in the Summer of 2011 and was a total success. Due to the departure of Paula Redway from the Assembly Rooms, Shropshire Council has now taken over organisation of the event with Shropshire Council and it is hoped that for 2012 it will continue to be a success on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

**Mayor's Chosen Charity** – the Mayor's chosen charity for 2011/12 is the Ludlow Foyer. The photographs below show Kim Skinner, Manager of the Foyer and also a group of residents.



## ALLOTMENTS

### Wigley Field Allotments

Last Autumn the bridge over the stream at the allotments was removed due to dilapidation and a grant was sought from Shropshire Council for a replacement. The bridge was a necessity and allowed allotment holders wheel barrow access across the stream. A second bridge has also meant the use of



the site is much safer for the users who were very grateful to the Council for our support.

## CEMETERY

**Grave Digging** – In 2011 Council resolved to instruct and carry out the digging of graves themselves using approved grave diggers rather than funeral directors instructing them to ensure that the public was receiving the best service possible.



**Cemetery House** – The Cemetery House was vacated in December 2010 but required considerable refurbishment and modernisation before being let. This included electrics and new fuse board, new ceilings, new kitchen and replacing the toilet in the bathroom, which was frost damaged in the cold weather. New tenants have been in

the house since October 2011 and there has been a reduction in anti-social behaviour.



## Cemetery Nursery and Polytunnel

A Cemetery Nursery has been created within the Cemetery grounds and a poly tunnel erected. This will allow the Town Council to grow on plants and harden them for both Town Council use.

This service is provided in addition to the regular maintenance of the Cemetery and the other amenity areas we care for including:

Castle Gardens  
St John's Gardens  
Garden of rest (paid for by Shropshire Council)  
Weyman Road  
Henley Orchards (many pieces of land)  
Wheeler Road Playing Fields  
Housman Crescent Play area  
Linney Riverside Park

Flower Beds in Corve Street and Old Street  
assisting Ludlow in Bloom



**Cemetery Height Restriction Bar** – A new height restriction bar was fitted in the Summer and despite damage caused by a van has since been replaced.



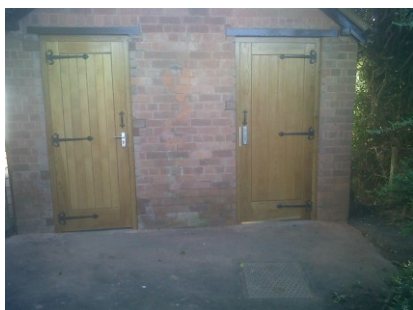
**Cemetery Paths** – All the Cemetery paths were in a poor condition and re-surfacing work has been carried out to make them safer. The path from toilets now has a gate and is disabled friendly.



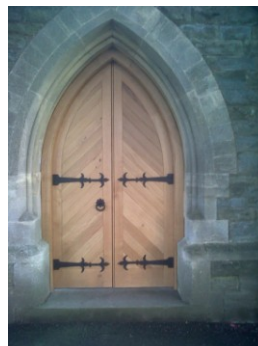
## Chapel Doors

The Chapel was protected by a gate which attracted vandalism and the Council has created new Chapel Doors in keeping with the others to the Chapel and as the cemetery toilets had to be accessible for the disabled we widened the door frame and created a path suitable for wheelchair access

### Cemetery Toilets



### Chapel doors



## **Chapel Roof**

Sadly thieves stole lead from the Chapel Roof but this has now been replaced and repaired, preserving the roof and interior of the Chapel.

**Memorial Benches** – Council approved a new memorial bench policy to provide pleasant seating facilities for residents and visitors. Residents may purchase an entire bench or plaque for a loved one.



## **Market**

**The Market generated record income levels in the year 2011 - 2012**

**Market of the Year** – We were delighted to be awarded the Award for market of the year by the National Association of British Market Authorities and the Market goes from strength to strength in popularity.

Our Market Manager Nadeem Samari is working tirelessly to continue this success by creating additional Markets on every day of the week except Tuesdays.



## **Lampposts in Castle Square**

Progress has been made with replacing damaged lamp-posts in Castle Square. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by the Summer of 2012 following the damage caused to 5 of them by vehicles.

## **Policies Created and adopted**

Advertising  
Environmental  
Internet Use  
Lone Worker  
Model Publication scheme  
Press  
Protocol on Bullying  
Protocol on Communications  
Protocol on Whistle Blowing  
Retention and Destruction  
Senior Citizen's Christmas Party  
Street Trading  
Twinning  
Vehicle Policy

Partnership Working with Shropshire Council, Shrewsbury Town Council, Ludlow Mascall Centre, Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Ludlow College and Hereford Colleges

## How many formal meetings?

### Full Council, Committee & Working Group Meetings

Committee or Group	Number of meetings
Full Council	18
Policy & Finance	11
Services	9
Representational	15
Accounts Committee	10
Civic Events Working Group	3
Christmas Lights Working Group	3
Communications Working Group	3
Budget Working Group	3
Street Trading	7
Twinning	3
Staffing & Appeals	2
Diamond Jubilee Group	8
Ludlow Town Development Working	2
Residents Meeting	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>

### COUNCIL 2011 – 2012

#### MAYOR

Councillor J R Aitken  
**Corve Ward**

Councillor P J Hunt  
**Hayton Ward**

Councillor V Parry  
**Corve Ward**

#### DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor J Wilcox  
**Bringewood Ward**

Vacant  
**Whitcliff Ward**

Councillor G Perks  
**Gallows Bank Ward**

Councillor L J Callender  
**Bringewood Ward**

Councillor S McCormack  
**Gallows Bank Ward**

Councillor A J Pound  
**Rockspring Ward**

Councillor D J Davies  
**Clee View Ward**

Vacant  
**Rockspring Ward**

Councillor J M Smithers  
**Whitcliffe Ward**

Councillor M Phillips  
**Clee View Ward**

Councillor J Newbold  
**Hayton Ward**

Councillor J Leyton-Purrier  
**Gallows Bank Ward**