

## **Notes from Cittaslow Public Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

Alison Cundall introduced and chaired the meeting which was attended by 48 people.

### **Chris Conoley: Principal - Ludlow College**

Chris made a very warm welcome – the college has had a good look at itself and now wants to be an active member of the town and work in partnership. The college has a stake in Ludlow and wants to be part of a prospering Ludlow.

Issues that need addressing:

- How welcoming are we? (Welcome Host)
- Parking? Possibly Sat and Sunday option using College space
- Shops to attract the young?
- A danger of too many charity shops
- Need for a strategic vision for Ludlow?

By being creative and working together we can make something work.

### **Delia Yapp- SCC Economic Regeneration Team**

Responsible for Tourism, Agri, food and drink, Environmental technologies, Creative technologies, Medical Technologies, Social Enterprise

Partners for Social Enterprise – a support scheme for Social Entreprises.

- Offers networking, signpost and channel support and advice.

Examples Community Shops, Credit Unions, Community Art Galleries, Community Pubs, Community Power projects.

Help is available from Business Link, Social Enterprise West Midlands, Partners for Social Enterprise, Shropshire County Council.

### **Questions from the Floor**

Peter Norman – Agrees Ludlow needs a vision for the town – for Cittaslow to be able to help with vision, Cittaslow Ludlow needs to have crystal clear objectives.

Derek Davies – Can the college help people who can't read and write. Can students help out – C.C yes and yes will put to students and also offers 'Skills for Life'

Nick Galtress - To have a vision we need to be wearing the same pair of spectacles. There is a wide divide between incomers and 'ludlovians'

Tish Dockerty – Ludlow's community is made up of more than that there are significant divides between young and old and town and rural hinterland dwellers.

Daphne Jones, Dinham Weir Trust - There are many people who have come to Ludlow and have put the town very close to their heart and contributed hugely – lets not discredit them.

Jim Smithers – Idea for an indoor retail market for young entrepreneurs in the space of Woolworths with maybe a café and food hall. Run as community enterprise.

Alison Cundall- Some work has been done on this – we need a succession plan for the future generation or Ludlow's uniqueness and proliferation of independent traders or they will slip away.

David Benson - Woolworths as a community venture may be more difficult in current economic climate. The idea of Slow sounds a bit 'saga'ish. We need something a bit more up beat and dynamic to engage with younger people.

A.C explained a bit more about Cittaslow – gave the example of Mold and their community window,

David Currant Ludlow 21 – Spoke about the Home Energy Surveys which Ludlow 21 will be embarking on doing – wanting to reach the more difficult to reach members of the community.

Tish Dockerty - Spoke about the Ludlow Pound Project very much based on the Lewes project – it's a simple project that clearly illustrates that by spending money locally you create more investment in the local economy.

Mark – We need to do something about the officious parking wardens, we need a parking strategy.

David Chantler – if we get behind Cittaslow Ludlow we can get a louder voice who will then be in a better position to nudge policy makers and take action.

Martin Taylor Smith – the town has some assets which need developing for young people and families, these are people who are not currently catered for in the town.

There was a brief discussion about timescale. It was suggested that it will be around 6 months before the current recession really hits Ludlow, based on retailers experience of past recessions.

Straw polls suggested that most people present were in favour of looking further at the Ludlow Pound and the Community Building/indoor market ideas for Woolies (or elsewhere if appropriate). A further meeting will be held.

Follow up meeting: 7.30 Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February, Assembly Rooms