



Ledbury & District Civic Society

Registered Office:
Burgage Hall
Church Lane
Ledbury
Herefordshire
HR8 1DW

*Butcher Row House Museum
and Burgage Hall.*

Ledbury Places Project: Time Running Out To Have Your Say

The 'Ledbury Places' team have reminded local people that time is running out to share their initial views on the four options put forward as part of a national pilot project looking at the long-term future of six heritage buildings in the town.

Ledbury Places is a project launched by the Ledbury & District Civic Society with the support of 'My Community Rights' funding from the Social Investment Business (SIB). This funding comes from central government and is provided to explore the possibilities offered by co-ordinating the management and ownership of the buildings to provide more sustainable community benefit.

This project is a national pilot because the future security of the buildings involved is being sought through their being linked together as a group. The project is also unusual because all six buildings are acknowledged as being of national importance, demonstrated by their inclusion in the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest compiled by English Heritage.

The project is not only seeking to ensure good custody of the six landmark buildings in the centre of Ledbury - the Market House, the Barrett Browning Institute, the Town Council offices, the Heritage Centre, the Butchers Row Museum and Burgage Hall – it is also examining ways and means of ensuring their long-term economic viability by putting them to the best possible use for the community in the future.

For the last six months, the Ledbury Places team – which includes Chairman of the Civic Society, Alex Clive - has been carrying out a Feasibility Study to establish how the six beautiful buildings can best be used and the team has now come up with a series of conclusions and recommendations which are being presented as the most viable options.

Among the options for discussion is the possible installation of a sympathetically designed lift system in the Market House building so everyone is able to have access to the first floor, while the possibility of converting the first floor of the Heritage Centre or part of the Town Council building into holiday letting accommodation is also an option for consideration.

Having taken on board the thoughts of the local community, towards the end of February the Ledbury Places team will put forward a final proposal and submit grant applications to attempt to secure funding to make the project a reality.

Speaking about the project team's continued desire to hear from as many local people as possible, Civic Society Chairman Alex Clive explained that feedback from the local community is absolutely vital to ensure the final plans fully represent what is best for the town.

"The aim of this project is not only to preserve these six beautiful buildings, but also to ensure they are put to fuller use in order to safeguard their long-term future. Therefore, input from local people is vital to ensure we have examined all the possible options and I'd like to remind people that we need any feedback by 5pm on Tuesday 11 February so we have time to take on board and discuss any views that are shared with us.



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“Although we have done a huge amount of work and have tried to consult with the community throughout this project, we know there are bound to be ideas we haven’t considered or recommendations we have made that might not be the right way forward.

“Local people – or anyone who would like to offer their thoughts on this project - can look at the various options by logging on to the Ledbury Places section of the Civic Society website at www.ledburycivicsociety.org/ledburyplaces.html, or by viewing the display boards in the Town Council offices or the library in the Barrett Browning Institute.

“Feedback can be given online via the Civic Society website or alternatively by filling out the forms that can be found where the recommendations are on display. In addition, you can also have your say on this project via our Twitter feed [@LedburyPlaces](https://twitter.com/LedburyPlaces), or by logging onto our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ledburyplaces.

“On behalf of the Ledbury Places project team I would ask anyone - young or old – who cares about the future of these six buildings to do all they can to engage in this progress.

“Help us put forward the best possible proposal to support our grant applications – proposals that this whole town can be proud of should they become reality in the future.”

For anyone wanting more information about the six historic buildings grouped together in this project, architectural firm Purcell – who are providing professional advice to the Ledbury Places project team - have created six separate moving animations that can be viewed on YouTube. The links to these animations are as follows:

Burgage Hall - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v686O9KqKTc>

Barrett Browning Institute (Library) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xRIAN--4e0>

Butchers Row Museum - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfRfYQCwPSY>

Heritage Centre - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gp-yLU_Oik8

Market Hall - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zy-bujTbWNU>

Council Offices - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhKVvaXXkOrc>

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