



Ledbury & District Civic Society

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

*Butcher Row House Museum
and Burgage Hall.*

Ledbury Places Team Thank The Community For Feedback

With the initial public consultation period now closed, the Ledbury Places project team has thanked the local community for the feedback they have given on the four options that were released at the start of February as a result of the Feasibility Study that has been conducted over recent months.

Ledbury Places is a national pilot project launched by the Ledbury & District Civic Society – through funding from the Social Investment Business (SIB) – to explore the possibilities offered by co-ordinating the management and ownership of a number of the town's historic buildings to provide more sustainable community benefit.

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.

After carrying out the Feasibility Study for several months with the help of professionals from a number of different sectors, four potential options were put forward for public consultation on Monday 4th February and feedback was encouraged from interested parties.

In addition, Ledbury Town Council were asked for a statement of intent in terms of their favoured option and the Ledbury Places team has been delighted by the response of town councillors and the commitment they have shown to this project.

Speaking about the progress made by the Ledbury Places team so far, Ledbury & District Civic Society Chairman Alex Clive said:

“We are extremely pleased with the amount of feedback we've had while the Feasibility Study has been ongoing and in total more than 100 people have taken to the time to offer their thoughts – be it online, face-to-face or by filling out the surveys that have been available with the display boards in the town library.

“We also did a presentation to 30 Year 8 pupils at John Masefield School early last week and the thoughts of the young people we saw were very interesting. They have provided us with a different perspective on certain things that we will look at.

“We are now in the process of going through all the feedback we have had and will see what we can build into the final proposal that will then be used to submit grant applications to take this whole project forward.

“We are due to submit the grant applications by the end of March but this will not mean that everything we put forward will be what we eventually try to achieve, or that there will not be further opportunities for the local community to have their say. People are still welcome to contact the project team via the Ledbury Places website at www.ledburyplaces.org for example.



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“Nothing we put forward at this stage is absolutely certain to be included in this regeneration project and I would also like to reassure people that no decisions have been made about the emotive subject of putting a lift in the Market House building.

“However, it is something that we are examining as a possibility for the simple reason that access to the first floor of this iconic building would need to be improved if we are to make it possible for it to be used more fully by the whole community.

“Submitting strong grant applications will be key to us planning what we can do in the Ledbury Places project moving forward because it goes without saying that without grants and funding none of what we hope to achieve will be possible.

“At this point it is important I place on record how grateful the Ledbury Places team are for the support of Ledbury Town Council as we look to make our plans a reality.

“It is pleasing the council have demonstrated their continued commitment to Ledbury Places by offering a statement of intent for the preferred option of potentially moving the town council offices to the Barrett Browning Institute in the future.

“It is also pleasing that two further town councillors have joined the Ledbury Places steering group as this clearly shows the council’s strong commitment to this project.

“Finally I’d once again just like to thank everyone who has taken the time to offer their thoughts on the four options we put out for public consultation and once we have had chance to collate the feedback we will do all we can to keep people informed of the progress we are making.”

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