

Ledbury Places secures further funding

Ledbury Places, the organisation set up to secure the long-term future and sustainability of the Barrett Browning Institute, Burgage Hall, the Heritage Centre, the Market House, the Butcher Row House Museum and the Town Council Office, has been successful in securing a place on the Community Ownership and Management of Assets (including Right to Bid) Grant Programme.

The programme was set up to invest in community groups in England to empower them to use Community Asset Transfer and the Community Right to Bid and help safeguard local assets for community benefit. Alex Clive, Ledbury Places' Director, said: "We are the only organisation in Herefordshire of this nature to have secured a place on this programme and we are delighted to be part of it. The concept of community-owned assets is a relatively new one but, as the existence of the grant programme demonstrates, there is plenty of support for it at local and national level and we are lucky to be receiving some valuable input to help us achieve our aims."

The programme has provided Ledbury Places with the support of a representative from the Plunkett Foundation, an organisation that helps communities to take control of their challenges and overcome them together. Its role is to support people, predominantly in rural areas, to set up and run life-changing community co-operatives.

As well as exploring the options that will help secure the future of the six iconic buildings, Ledbury Places has also been busy putting down roots as an organisation. It is now a registered charity and a member of Locality, the national network of ambitious and enterprising community-led organisations, working together to help neighbourhoods thrive. Alex commented: "Becoming a registered charity gives us an official status that reflects our commitment to our aims and being part of Locality is vital for us because we can share knowledge and experience with like-minded organisations."

Alex said: "The future looks very bright for Ledbury Places. Although some of the buildings in question are in urgent need of restoration work, we see this as a long term plan to develop a secure future for these important contributors to our heritage. We need to find ways as a community to make better use of these buildings, to help to ensure their long-term viability and sustainability. I hope to have some exciting news to report in the coming weeks. I can't say more now apart from – watch this space!"

In the meantime, Ledbury and district residents are being encouraged to stay in touch and comment on the project by liking it on Facebook, following it on Twitter or visiting www.ledburyplaces.org.

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LEDBURY PLACES

Notes for editors

Ledbury Places

Ledbury Places is a registered charity that includes representatives from Ledbury & District Civic Society, Ledbury Town Council, the Trustees of the Barrett Browning Institute and the Ledbury Area Development Trust. It was formed to find a sustainable future for six buildings that make up a huge part of the heritage of Ledbury:

- Barrett Browning Institute
- Burgage Hall
- Butcher Row House Museum
- Heritage Centre
- Market House
- Town Council Offices (including the Painted Room).

For more information about Ledbury Places, visit www.ledburyplaces.org.

Contact

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