

The 'self-appointed Voice of Wetherby' according to John W.
Thanks John, but we don't claim to speak for anybody but ourselves. We print all views, including yours.

Our Environment Matters



Full Issue at www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press



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Simple Question about Potholes in Crossley St Car Park



- 1 The motorists who use the car park
 - 2 All motorists through road tax etc
 - 3 Everybody through general taxes
- Or a combination?

We ask because with most services the person who uses it pays for it, unless it is for the benefit of the whole society eg NHS, education, social services and the police etc. So why should parking a car, a luxury item for many, be included in this category in the eyes of so many in this town? Particularly when charging is widespread in almost all UK towns and when visitors expect to pay. It seems strange that (tax-paying) bus users should pay to maintain car parks. We were curious so asked this simple question to Cllr Lamb, lead anti-charging campaigner, our other Leeds City Councillors and 2 Labour Town Councillors. *See page 6*

Cllr Kazia Knight



Wetherby has lost 'a deeply important and cherished member of the community'.

A book of remembrance has been set up in the Town Hall Foyer, available for all to leave kind words and memories.

Dianne Rickaby, Town Clerk adds 'Lets

remember her with love, and cherish our memories.'



Lot of Gratitude for Litter Pickers

Even on miserable days the Boston Spa litter pickers go out to improve our environment.

They collected 20 bags of litter by the A168 next to the A1(M) recently.

The public showed their gratitude to these wonderful volunteers on the social media forum *Nextdoor*.

We add our voice of thanks to them and all the groups who do the same, like *Litter Free Wetherby* and the *Green Group*, see page 4.

More about our environment, including uncollected rotting leaves on page 7.

Thank You to our 1000s of Readers

Please send your News, Views & Events to:
WetherbyFreePress@PM.me



15,000 sold in 5 yrs - raised £1000s for charity



* What happens if someone slaps you at high frequency? It hertz.

* What do you call a row of rabbits hopping backward? A receding hare line.



* What do you call a blind dinosaur? A doyouthinkhesawus.

* Why was the broom late for class? It overswept.

* My favourite teacher in school was Mrs. Turtle. Funny name, but she tortoise well.

* Where does a magic scientist work? In a labracadabratory.

* What starts with P, ends in S, and drives my wife wild? My Puzzles.



More funnies on back page

As well as the *Wetherby Free Press* page on [facebook](#) there's the *Wetherby Deserves Better* page too. Both are run independently from the newsletter.



Follow & Don't Get



Danger Near Primary Schools

West Yorkshire Police have attended St Marys Church Primary School in Boston Spa following concerns raised by local residents regarding parking during drop off and pick up time'.

They say they will continue to carry out patrols outside schools when needed to prevent dangerous parking and ensure safety for all.

In response on social media, Hollie K said that St James Primary School on Hallfield Lane "was really bad at pick up today, was at a stand still with a coach and people refusing move into a space because it's too small or wasn't one available because of parked cars which has gotten worse since the parking charges were introduced. We also haven't had a lollipop lady for 2 going on 3 years and the road is beginning to be quite dangerous for the children always was but no lollipop lady is ridiculous and, yes, we have told the council but it's falling on deaf ears".



6 Banners, None About Safety

The Editor lives close to this school and often witnesses speeding drivers and parents who park in the most selfish and stupid way.

We wonder how much of a priority safety is for this C of E school. We see SIX banners on their fences by the road stating how good their Ofsted ratings are but not one asking



people to park sensibly and to keep their speed down. Cars still park on one side of the road opposite the school; an accident waiting to happen since the Lollipop Lady was stopped. We will ask Matthew, the Vicar at St James Church, for his comments on this.

No cones or signs like these at St James Primary on Hallfield Lane

Next Wetherby Town Council Mtg

Tues 10 March at 7pm

www.wetherbytowncouncil.gov.uk

If you go, please tell us your views on it.



Our Campaign continues



Offline and Overlooked

We Don't Forget the many 1000s of people who are offline - those who do not have (or want) internet access or a smartphone.

We ask all organisations to include a phone no. and put information on PAPER eg leaflets

None of our Town Councillors have yet expressed support for this campaign. Age UK have a similar one.



Goosemoor - A Relaxing Place to View Some Wildlife

Goosemoor nature reserve is a gem and just a short cycle / car ride away. It's down War Field Lane in Cowthorpe. It has 2 Facebook groups - Nature Reserve and Nature Reserve Group. The latter has more wonderful images like these. It is a peaceful place to sit and watch some amazing wildlife. Not just a fantastic variety of birds but also bats, bugs, newts, moths, butterflies and small mammals. If you would like to help out, they always welcome new volunteers. Details online or contact us if you aren't online.



Teal



Pheasant

Thanks to Mick Lockwood
for these pictures



Robin

Wetherby Foodbank

February 2026 Foodbank Wish List

- Long-life milk – full fat
- Puddings – e.g. long-life sponge
- Tinned custard
- Sugar – small packets please
- Long-life fruit juice
- Pasta'n'sauce instant meals
- Pot noodles/instant noodle meals
- Tinned vegetarian meals (NOT macaroni cheese)
- Tinned potatoes
- Instant mash
- Tinned sweetcorn
- Tinned carrots
- Squash/cordials
- Instant hot chocolate
- Loo cleaner
- Or... make a donation via our website

Thank
you!

There are donation points for food items in
Wetherby - Morrisons, Sainsbury's & Co-op
Collingham - Tesco **Tadcaster** - Sainsburys
Clifton Moor - Tesco Extra You can also donate at
churches across the area, and other community spaces.



Boston Spa Methodist Church

Lunchtime Concert

to be held at 1pm
Friday 13th March 2026



"Voyages"
with acclaimed harpist
Eira Lynn Jones

TICKETS £6
Light lunches served from 12 noon

ENQUIRIES: 0113 268 2041

Poor Customer Experience on Harrogate Bus Co's 7

A reader has brought an incident to our attention. We were surprised as *Harrogate Bus Company (HBC)* drivers are better than most. We sent the following email to customer services and others at HBC:

To Henri Rohard, MD of *Transdev*,

Good Morning Mr Rohard,

Your Oct 23 out-of-date timetables are still being displayed in Wetherby Library. They contain WRONG times about the X98/99 you no longer run.

We have told you about this previously, as well as Ben Gilligan of *Go-Ahead*, but nothing has been done.

We have received a disturbing email about an incident on your No 7 that happened on Tues 27 Jan. It looks like very poor customer service. Plse comment.

"Yesterday the 8:30am Number 7 bus from Wetherby broke down on Thorp Arch Trading Estate.

A van driver told the bus driver there was something loose on the roof of the bus.

The bus driver rang through and a mechanic was coming from the depot in Starbeck. No thought was given to the passengers on the bus.

The bus driver told them the next bus was 4pm! The passengers had to fend for themselves.

Some called for taxis, some wandered off and one called her husband and he took two of them to Seacroft.

The lady who told me got a lift with the lady who called her husband. She is elderly and didn't know what to do. She didn't know where to go to catch another Number 7 bus.

It sounds as if it was very distressing for her and the bus driver was nice help.

It's quite shocking that no thought was given to the passengers!"

Mr Rohard has not responded, nor any manager or customer services person from HBC / Transdev. They clearly don't care that their timetables are out-of-date in Wetherby Library and that they are misleading passengers with wrong times in them.

After the article in our last issue, there has been no reaction from Ben Gilligan of Go-Ahead (Proctors) who run the X98/99 to Leeds.

No response either from Cllr Lamb to our many comments about his disappointing answers to the questions in Issues 86 & 87.

You have to ask yourself, do any of them really care about our bus services? They certainly are not keen on being accountable for their part in the low standards the passenger has to put up with. Meanwhile, after 4 years there's still nothing to stop the bus blocking on Castle Gate! See right.



Facebook Group 'Parking like a' with 227K followers highlights this parking



Boston Spa, Wetherby
& Villages
Community Green Group

"At last, the days are starting to lengthen.

We've also packed a lot into our latest Community Group newsletter; from upcoming events, to good eco news you might have missed, as well as a curated compilation of tools to support you deepen your knowledge on the challenges we face."

January newsletter can be found at:

www.bostongreengroup.co.uk

There are also opportunities to have your say; encourage our MP & share your thoughts on wood burning, as well as the usual opportunities to learn, watch & read.

There's your last chance to petition for a free daily electricity allowance.

Adrian Balcombe Chair

adrian.balcombe@bostongreengroup.co.uk

Boston Spa, Wetherby and Villages Community Green Group is non-politically affiliated and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1204438)



Members of the Community Litter Picking

Note from Editor. Thank you for your great work. It would benefit the many people who are offline and cannot access the newsletter to have a printout in Wetherby & Boston Spa libraries, and other green-friendly places?

W'by News Supporter Attacks Us & Expects Us Not To Respond!

Wetherby News

NEWSWATCH

29 Jan News Items - 1. No Letters

Moores closure at Thorp Arch

5 Feb News Items - 4. No Letters

Food waste in bins - Leeds CC press release

Charity press release

Care home holds normal event - press release

Stockeld Park win award - press release

12 Feb News Items - 1. No Letters

Wetherby man becomes Vice-Chancellor of a University.
No mention of Kazia Knight's passing. We are speechless!



The price of £2.30 is now hidden away on the back page. What does that tell you?



In the last issue we asked if there was anybody willing to speak up for this 'newspaper' and defend its lack of W'by news. One person on the *Nextdoor* social media forum gave his view. 'John W' writes:

“Whatever the shortcomings of the *Wetherby News* may be, its editor and staff do not launch and sustain a personal vendetta against anyone who dares to criticise the newspaper. This is the exact opposite of how the sole person responsible for publishing the *WFP* handles criticism. He names and shames anyone who has the temerity to criticise the content of the *WFP*. No dissent or disagreement is tolerated. Any individual who expresses a different opinion is dismissed, criticised or ridiculed by the self-appointed voice of Wetherby. Of course, the *WFP* person keeps a very careful record of anyone daring to express an opinion which he does not agree with. This ensures they will be dealt with accordingly, using *WFP* as his personal platform to attack what has become a long and increasing list of targets. For all its perceived faults, the *Wetherby News* does not engage in this type of persistent hounding of anyone who disagrees with its content or editorial policy.”



The Editor replied “Thanks for your comment, John. Total nonsense of course. Not a single example provided. We welcome free speech, don't you? We deal with FACTS, otherwise we would get sued. You are someone else who defends a simply dreadful paper by attacking people who care about the community and want to improve it. We're grateful that not many people think like you. Why don't we meet up and talk about your grievance like normal adults, John? Plse DM me.”

John W replied: “As already indicated, the *WFP* person will not tolerate any dissent. He brooks no criticism. The *Wetherby News*, for all its alleged failings, does not chase after anyone who dares to disagree with its content or editorial policy. The publishers of local newspapers refrain from using their pages to hound local people who may have a different opinion, whoever they might be, by naming and shaming them. Whereas, the *WFP* person uses his own publication to persistently criticise those who live in the area. That includes people who help the local community. In addition, the supposedly discredited *Wetherby News* is likely to contain facts. Except they do not feel the need to shout about it. Perhaps the *WFP* person ought to consider demonstrating a little 'humility.' NB No doubt a dismissive response is being prepared for the next issue of his publication.”

The Editor replied: “Thanks again to John W for repeating the same strong views/nonsense. We welcome criticism and do not try and get it removed from sites like this. We also publish it in full and unedited, or would you prefer your views not to be in the next issue, Mr W? If not, why not? But it is very strange that John W does not expect us to defend ourselves against the nonsense he writes here. Quite bizarre that he expects to shoot the messenger and for the messenger to not react. He again provides no examples where the *Free Press* has criticised or 'chased' a person or organisation where it is unjustified. Not a single example! Nothing to back his opinion up. He clearly wants us to ignore incompetence, laziness, low standards and poor performance by those in high positions in Wetherby, especially those who spend OUR money. We suspect Mr W (why the anonymity? *Nextdoor* neighbours normally know each other's surnames) has been the subject of one of our 87 issues, or his (political) colleagues or friends have been. Plse come clean and tell us what affiliations you have, John. He does not wish to meet in person to discuss his grievance and explain in detail why he thinks what we have written is wrong. Isn't that the definition of a keyboard warrior? Mature *Nextdoor* neighbours get together over a coffee to sort their differences out. We do, of course, constantly highlight the positive in our area, something John W doesn't mention. Yours humbly, Paul”

A summary of the facts.

- John W thinks that some people are above criticism, especially if they 'help the local community' (Jimmy Savile helped the community and raised £millions for charity!)
- He describes the *Wetherby News* as having 'alleged failings' and 'perceived faults' and is 'supposedly discredited'. He has no opinion on the paper but has very strong negative ones about a newsletter that will publish anything (legal) he would send it
- John W does not provide a single example to back his strong views up
- He expects us not to defend ourselves when he makes strong accusations (without any evidence)
- He refuses to criticise the Editor face-to-face, the definition of a keyboard warrior
- He refuses to say whether he has any affiliations so we don't know if he is in a position of authority in the town

We asked him to confirm if he is the senior *Wetherby Lion*, John Wardley. He refused to say. We asked John Wardley and got no response either. The only other supporter of the *Wetherby News* (and fierce critic of us) is a senior *Lions* member and in the 4 years of our existence, the local *Lions* groups have never sent us any details of their good deeds to publicise. That is up to them but we're allowed to wonder why.

Judge for yourselves who is being reasonable here. We hope that whoever John W is he will meet up for coffee and get to know the Editor as a person. Perhaps he'll write an article for us one day and together we can try and improve the only community newsletter we have.



John W ?



Potholes in Crossley St Car Park

Cont'd from front page

Who Should Pay to Fix Them?

- 1 The motorists who use the car park
- 2 All motorists through road tax etc
- 3 Everybody through general taxes

It's not a difficult question but only one Councillor made a proper effort to answer it. Nothing is simple, we know that - it could be a combination of the 3 options.

Cllr Penny Stables of the Green Party said



Penny Stables, Green

“Yes Crossley Street car park is a mess. The Council isn't repairing it because it was put forward as a possible development site. This is very unlikely to go through to the next stage of the Leeds Local Plan, but Parking services are waiting until the site is ruled out before spending money on the car park. I suppose the answer to your question would be that many people pay for services that they don't use, via Council spending. The Council is there to support all residents of Leeds.”

We thank Penny for responding and not insulting us with waffle, like one of the others.

Labour & Tory Cllrs Unable to Answer Simple Question



Norma Harrington, Con



Alan Lamb, Con



Matt Nicholson, Lab



Alex Riddell Lab

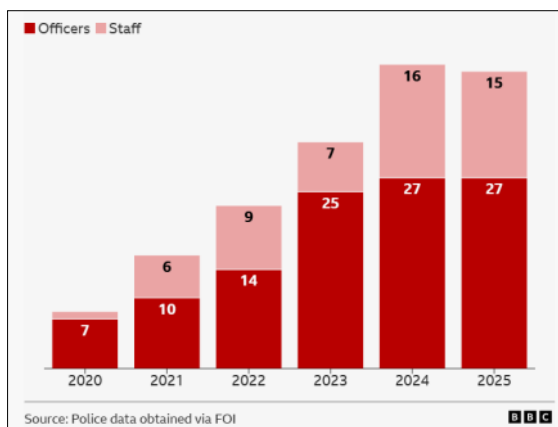
More West Yorkshire Police Committing Sackable Offences

The BBC have reported that the number of West Yorkshire Police officers and staff committing sackable offences has risen more than fivefold in five years.

Almost a third of the offences were sexual or domestic in nature and included crimes such as rape and possessing indecent images of children, a BBC Freedom of Information request has found.



Det Ch Supt Tanya Wilkins, of West Yorkshire Police, responsible for standards



Alison Lowe, West Yorkshire Deputy Mayor, responsible for policing & crime

Det Ch Supt Tanya Wilkins, who is head of West Yorkshire Police's Professional Standards Directorate, said the force was "investigating more criminal and conduct matters than ever before" and attributed the rise to increased reporting. She also said the rise was "not necessarily due to any increase in corruption or decline in standards".

High-profile cases, including the murder of Sarah Everard by serving police officer Wayne Couzens in 2021, and that of serial rapist and former Metropolitan Police officer David Carrick, have placed police conduct under renewed scrutiny.

"The murder of Sarah Everard in 2021 and events after have, rightly so, placed a focus on internal culture in the police," she added.

Alison Lowe, West Yorkshire's Deputy Mayor, said: "The officers and staff who should never have been appointed in West Yorkshire, one by one, are being exited through the misconduct processes that are improving year on year."

Lowe said it was "inevitable that rogue officers and staff will be recruited because no system, no process of recruitment, is perfect".

The rise in gross misconduct cases represented a "change in culture," she added. "I think there is a culture of misogyny, of racism, of homophobia because, of course, policing is a microcosm of the society in which we all live."

'No confidence in WYP Professional Standards', says Resident

Promise not kept



Inspector Richard Armstead

A resident says he is not surprised at these rising figures after his experience with the 'Professional Standards of WYP. He has no respect for, or confidence in them after he simply wanted to know why a senior Officer refused to contact him after he said he would.

We described this poor behaviour in Issues 76, 78, 79 & 82 last year. The resident had a meeting about the serious issue of harassment with Insp Richard Armstead of Leeds North East Division, who assured him he would look into the serious issues raised and get back to him. The Officer later wrote "I have not forgotten about this so I will get back into it next week". He never contacted the resident. After repeated requests, the resident felt he had no choice but to write to the Chief Constable and Prof. Standards, not wanting to go through the official complaints procedure, and the hassle that would entail.

"What a total farce that was" he writes. "PC Ellis Adams of Prof. Standards Dep't seemed to be a spokesman for Insp Armstead, not an independent monitor of his behaviour. He made ridiculous explanations on his behalf, which made no sense. He was basically saying it was ok for West Yorks Police to ignore and 'cancel' a resident. I was dumbfounded. The Deputy Mayor & Chief Constable were not interested either"

The Free Press highlighting this issue had no effect - nothing followed from the Inspector, the resident says. We checked and he is still our local Inspector. This behaviour lets the public down, and all the many decent, professional staff. If you cannot trust a senior Police Officer to keep his word, who can you?

Promoting Our Great Town - Welcome to Wetherby

New Years Day
Duck Race in
Knaresborough



The *Free Press* and other residents have suggested a duck race in Wetherby but the *Lions & W'by Town Council* cite health and safety reasons for not doing it. How can Knaresborough manage one then? Knaresborough is also famous for its Bed Race which must be a health & safety nightmare.

“Excellent job”

says our Conservative Leeds City Councillor Alan Lamb about *Welcome to Wetherby* Town Council Ctte



Evidence
provided to
back up his
opinion:

None



Welcome to Wetherby committee members are Cllrs:

Dean Buckle, Chair -

image on page 9

Norma Harrington -

image on page 6

Matt Nicholson -

image on page 6



Jane Lavocah
Independent



Elaine Smith
Conservative

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

Help us to shape the future of our town events!

Wetherby Town Council is excited to announce that we've teamed up with Event Management students from Leeds Beckett University to find out what YOU want to see happening in our community!

We want to know what kind of events or activities you'd love to have in town.

They've created a survey and here's how you can help: Scan the QR code below or visit the *Welcome to Wetherby* Facebook page:



OR in person: Students from Leeds Beckett will be out and about in town on Tuesday 3rd February.

Feel free to stop and chat with them to share your thoughts in person! It is completely anonymous, and they do not collect, or store any personal data.

Our Councillors and members of the *Welcome to Wetherby* committee are so bereft of ideas they have to contract it out to some students and us, see left.

We will report on the outcome, if any.

The minutes of their meetings will, no doubt, contain reasons why events or activities cannot be organised, as that is what has happened in the past. Plus our Events Officer can only take on 2 events a year (Remembrance Day & Bonfire Night).

So forgive our cynicism but a unique, imaginative Wetherby event is not going to feature on local TV news any time soon.

The committee continues to ignore all our suggestions to boost the town's image.



In the last issue we highlighted this filthy sign, left, which has been like that for months. It has finally been cleaned (though not the edges you may notice).

What sort of a 'Welcome to Wetherby' are these?



Years of this Poor Signage

Leaf Mulch Problem



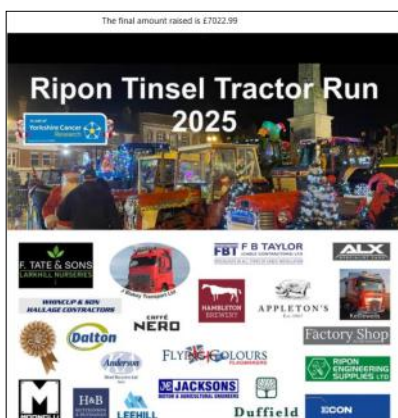
Steve Waters complains on the *Nextdoor* group about the leaves 'just left to rot on pavements and roads, leaving a dangerous, slippery mess, and blocking drains.' Why don't the Council collect the leaves at the end of Autumn, he asks, adding

that it's particularly bad near the Leisure centre.

We agree it is a disgraceful situation that has been going on for years. Surely the *Town Council* or *Lions* or *WBA* or *Weir Preservation Trust* etc could ask for volunteers or a local gardening / tree surgery business to help out?

We will continue to highlight why we think *Welcome to Wetherby* are not doing an 'excellent job' in the hope that they improve. See page 9 for our 'Campaign to Brighten Up Wetherby'.

What Other Towns Have



Wetherby Town Council - Open & Transparent?

As *Wetherby Town Council* is a parish council which has a gross annual income or expenditure exceeding £200,000 they should be following the Local Government Transparency Code. They should publish an Organisation Chart showing the 5 bits of information in the table.

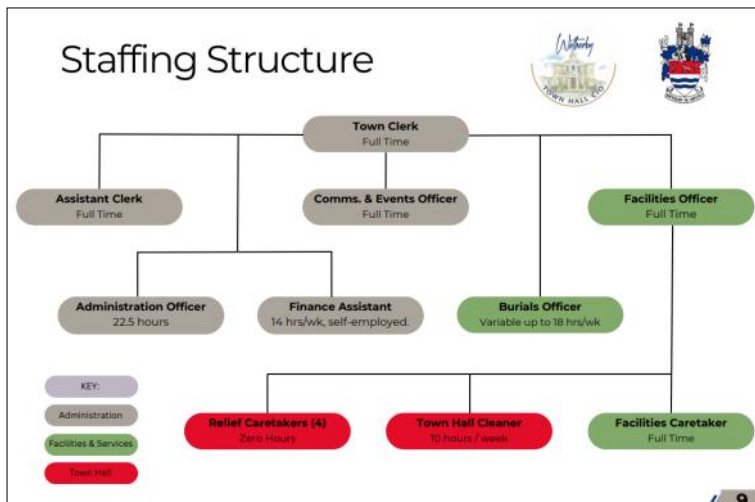
| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Grade | Not Shown |
| Job Title | Shown |
| Temporary / Permanent | Not Shown |
| Contact Details | Not Shown |
| Salary & Salary Ceiling | Not Shown |

We are not surprised that these details are kept from us. We have shown in many past issues they are more secretive than MI6.

The code also says they must publish:

- ◆ details and invoices of each individual item of expenditure that exceeds £500.
- ◆ details of every invitation to tender for contracts to provide goods and/or services with a value that exceeds £5,000.
- ◆ details of any contract, commissioned activity, purchase order, framework agreement and any other legally enforceable agreement with a value that exceeds £5,000.
- ◆ details of any contract, commissioned activity, purchase order, framework agreement and any other legally enforceable agreement with a value that exceeds £5,000.

We will report on how they do with these obligations in the next issue.



The State of Local TV News



This serious landslide in Knaresborough was not reported on either ITV Calendar or BBC Look North.

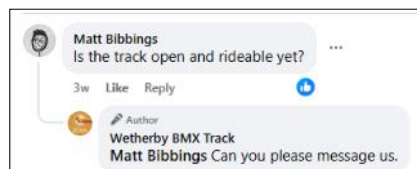
It disrupted the rail services over the viaduct affecting 1000s of passengers. Both programmes are telling us to go online for more details of some news items. What if we don't want to or don't have internet access?

The BBC rarely give important results of our local football and rugby league teams.

Harry G & Richard W would turn in their graves.

BMX Park - Still Not Finished

It's nearly a year since work started on the area by the old railway line near the racecourse. It shows what low expectations Wetherby people have when nobody makes a fuss about it. Very little info. about who is behind BMX Tracks and very little info. about the delay. Just look at the message on Facebook in January from BMX Track! They are afraid of telling the public if it is open or not!



Why do we care, you ask. Because, as we have reported previously, £11,000+ of money from us via our Town Council is paying for it. Nothing



in recent meeting minutes about it. This is another example of Town Councillors not monitoring progress of where our money goes. Not a single named Cllr will

take responsibility and follow up on this project.

There is no information at all on the site itself. There's 2 piles of stones just left there.

Who is responsible if somebody is seriously injured? Compare this to the professional Devil's Toenail Bike Park in town itself. That one had no delays like this that we remember.

Professional Signage at Devil's Toenail



Civic Society Welcoming New Members

WETHERBY CIVIC SOCIETY aims and objectives are to:

- ⇒ Promote Civic Pride along with high standards of architecture and town planning
- ⇒ Encourage improvements in public amenities throughout the town
- ⇒ Influence development of the built environment and the culture of our town
- ⇒ Their work has included: Publishing the Wetherby Historic Town Trail and placing blue plaques on historic buildings

They respond and influence planning applications relating to new developments in the town. They initiate and help with projects to maintain the built and social environment like the Georgian Bath House and surrounding Jubilee gardens.

Membership costs £12.00 per year or £20.00 for two people living at the same address.

Members are offered a varied programme of talks and visits throughout the year. They cost £4.00* for Members and £7.00* for Visitors (*subject to change to include entry fees if applicable).

If you are interested in the future of Wetherby, come along to the AGM on

Monday 23 March at 7.30pm in St. James Church Rooms

The AGM will be followed by a talk on "Hallfield House - 200 Years of History".

Anyone who wishes to join the Society should contact our secretary by email at jean.chapman930@gmail.com and can find out more at our website at www.wetherbycivicsociety.org.uk.



Group at the Bath House on one of our regular Autumn Wetherby Civic Society Guided Town Walks

Campaign to Brighten up Wetherby Continues, despite ..

It is a great pity that Wetherby has had no sculptures, murals, paintings or any other form of artistic expression in the last 10 years. We show in most *Free Presses* how other towns in our locale have creativity and imagination in abundance eg Otley and Knaresborough. Why we are so far behind is a mystery. Or is it?

Our Town Councillors and City Councillors have shown no interest at all in our campaign, which has been going for over a year now. Cllr Dean Buckle, Chair of *Welcome to Wetherby*, continues to ignore our suggestions to improve the town.

We can't even manage a single painted telecoms cabinet! There is nothing with imagination to admire or make you smile. The only artwork is hidden away under the A1(M) well away from sight from most residents and visitors.

Our empty shops look depressing, and are a lost opportunity to promote the town. Those doing nothing to make them interesting are: *Wetherby Business Association*, *Wetherby Town Council*, shop owners and property companies. They all lack any creative ability to visually improve these eyesores. And clearly any ability to work together. Examples please, if you think we are wrong. Note it **can** be done - superb image of River Wharfe covering front of shop in Horsefair Centre before it was 'Man Cave'.



Cllr Buckle, No Response



Cross St - Empty for 3+ Years



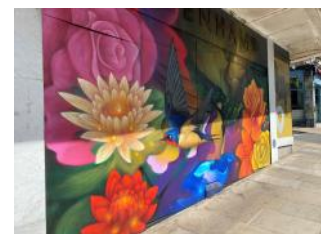
Castle Gate - Empty for 3+ Years



Our One & Only Work of Art, under the A1(M)



How Other Places in Yorkshire Improve Their Environment



Survival Looks Good - 6 Pts above Drop



Three months ago fellow-strugglers Notts Forest beat Leeds 3 - 1. This time it went the other way with a fine performance at Elland Road by the Whites. This was a crucial 'must-win' match - the pressure was on Daniel Farke and his team. The result was in little doubt after Leeds scored two good goals in the first half, and then one more soon after the break. The stadium was in fine voice and the relief palpable.



Okafor scores

Next up was a trip to London where they played top 5 team Chelsea. United gave away a silly penalty but managed to claw back a 2 goal deficit to draw 2 - 2.

Leeds had some lady luck when Chelsea missed an open goal in the last minute.

Some tough challenges ahead from the likes of Man City and Aston Villa.



Image of Former Manager Marcelo Bielsa near Otley

Results & Fixtures

Everton 1 - 1 Utd

Utd 0 - 4 Arsenal

Utd 3 - 1 Notts Forest

Chelsea 2 - 2 Utd

Birmingham v Utd on Sun 15 Feb at 12.00

FA Cup

Aston Villa v Utd on Sat 21 Feb at 3pm

Utd v Man City on Sat 28 Feb at 5.30pm



Harrogate - Bottom of the Football League

Listening to the football scores on national radio and TV recently, the presenters kept mentioning the embarrassing fact that Harrogate had not won a match in 4 months, that's 19 matches. The weekend after they managed a 2 - 1 victory.

Harrogate Town FC are our nearest professional club and our town gets a mention as they play at Wetherby Road. They also plan to spend £millions at Wetherby Racecourse on a new training facility. (Wouldn't they save a few bob if they used Leeds United's at Thorp Arch?). They also affect Wetherby folk when they play at home on Saturdays, that road is busy at the best of times.

The club did fantastically well to get promoted to the football league in 2020. But now they are in big trouble, rooted at the foot of League 2. The headline in the Wetherby News / Harrogate Advertiser is 'One Almighty Task'.

So why the poor form this season. Credit to the Chairman, Irving Weaver, for not hiding away like some would. He says:

"Since being promoted to League Two in 2020, we have been exceptionally proud to compete in the English football's fourth tier representing Harrogate.

I'd like to thank you sincerely for your continued support in what is proving to be our most difficult and challenging season yet at this level."

He goes on to blame the 'worst injury crisis in the club's recent history' but 'this is not an excuse'. There is hope and optimism, though. The club have secured nine additional players in the transfer window. This has 'significantly strengthened the squad over the past month and this is starting to show through looking at recent performances'.

The Free Press wishes them all the best for the rest of the season.



Chairman Irving Weaver



Free Press
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If we get important facts wrong, we will apologise publicly and correct the error.

We don't do interviews, as we are not journalists. Professional journalists are very rare indeed now. Most local ones just 'cut & paste' from press releases. We have high standards and not afraid to say what we see.

We encourage everyone to write to us with their views, whatever they are. Our countrymen and women have died for our Freedom of Expression so do not be afraid to use it. You can remain anonymous if you wish but if you are in a position of authority, the reader should know that fact. We, or you, cannot be sued for libel/defamation as long as what is published is

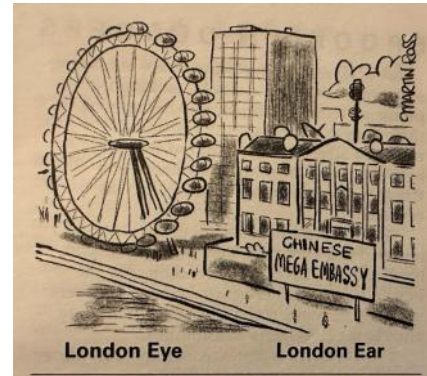
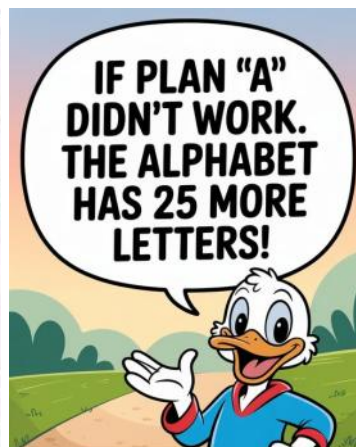
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The Editor has had 7 'Meet the Editor' events so far. None of our harshest online critics have turned up yet to have a mature face-to-face discussion.



We will publish both sides if sent to us

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