

A Beacon of Facts & Integrity in a Sometimes Dark & Crazy World

WETHERBY

ISSUE 92

Free Press
Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

Blue goings-on in Blu?



It's definitely a first for us - covering a salubrious story!

Illicit affairs in the higher echelons of Wetherby society no doubt go on but none have been made public yet.

Yappapp were the first to publicise this story to the Yorkshire region. And it was inevitable a national paper would get hold of it.

It's claimed a couple were getting up close and personal in the Blu Hair & Beauty salon in the view of

customers enjoying refreshments outside 'Spoons. Video of the incident was

taken by a local man and it was spread around local social media with 1.7m views! The salon made a statement:

"We are aware of a video currently circulating online involving a member of our team. The incident took place outside of our business operating hours and does not reflect the professional standards and values we uphold at our salon.

We understand that some clients may have concerns, and we want to reassure everyone that the matter has been addressed internally. We remain fully committed to providing a welcoming, professional, and respectful environment for all of our clients.

As this is an employment matter involving private individuals, we will not be making any further comment.

Thank you to our loyal clients and local community for your continued support."

It is disappointing that there was no apology in Blu's statement for this alleged behaviour on their premises. Nor was there a denial that it took place. Bizarrely, the Yorkshire Evening Post online did not even hint at the contents of the video. Yet it reported the story (why?) - another example of poor coverage by our local press. The Manchester Evening News gave more details about it than the YEP! One final thought on this otherwise amusing incident - let's hope no children witnessed the alleged incident or the reaction to it.



Blu salon opposite 'Spoons in Horsefair

Claire Shaves Head for Charity



Claire as bald as a coot

... and raises over £1000 for Blood Cancer UK.

Claire Wiggins of Boston Spa is a well-known character in the village, tirelessly doing good deeds despite suffering from many health issues herself.

She says: "I would like to thank everyone who supported me with my sponsored hair shave. I did this in memory of my beautiful late partner Iain Johnstone. He was known by many people in the village

and surrounding area. I also did this in memory of our friend Bruce Langfield. He and Iain both passed away to AML (a form of blood cancer) earlier in the year.

I did this to raise funds and awareness for Blood Cancer UK a charity close to Iain and our families heart. We have raised £1200 and I cannot thank everyone enough."

If you would like to make a donation, please visit the website at

www.justgiving.com and search for 'Claire Wiggins'.

What can we say but 'Well Done' Claire. You are an inspiration to us all.



Claire with late partner Iain

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



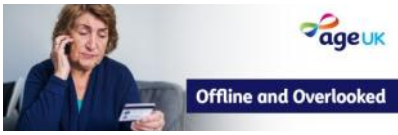
We cater for the 1000s of **DIGITALLY EXCLUDED** with a **Full Copy at Library, Phoenix Café**

& promo copies at *Morrisons, Pubs, Cafés, Dentists, Care Homes, Churches, Takeaways etc*

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

Don't Miss Out - Join our Large Mailing List by emailing: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

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, posters



* What do you call a dental clinic on a boat? The Tooth Ferry.

* Do French people call marijuana "oui'd"?



* How are relationships like algebra? Because you look at your X and wonder Y.

* And the award for the Best Neckwear of the Year goes to... Well would you look at that, it's a tie!

* My wife is threatening to leave me because of my obsession with poker. But I'm calling her bluff.

* My older relatives liked to tease me at weddings, saying things like, "You'll be next!" So I started saying the same to them at funerals.



* Worst thing about having a job at the job centre? If you get fired, you still have to show up the next day.

* I am proud to announce I have completed the very



first item on my bucket list. I have purchased the bucket.

* First shift as a train driver today. Hope I can stay on track.

More funnies on back page



The Crazy World of Wetherby Town Council

How would you feel if you worked at a place where you were on the same grade and paid the same rate as an 'Officer' but were called an 'Assistant'?

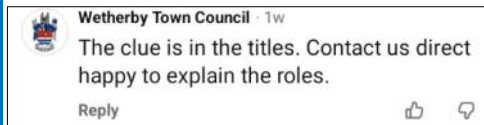
Any normal person would not be happy and say that is unreasonable and ridiculous. This is the situation Cllr Norma Harrington, Chair of Staffing Ctte & Town Clerk Dianne Rickaby are asking of their staff.



Job Title: Administration Officer.
Hours: Full time - 37 hours per week working Monday - Friday (some weekend work will be required to assist with events and functions)
Salary: Local Government NJC SCP16, which is currently £15.82 per hour.
Location: Wetherby Town Hall (Council Offices).

Job Title: Town Hall Administration Assistant
Hours: Part Time - 16 hours per week - TBC
Salary: Local Government NJC SCP16, which is currently £ 15.82 per hour
Location: Wetherby Town Hall (Council Offices).

When we asked them about this, they had a sarcastic reply, see below - **very unprofessional**. Another example of low standards from this publicly-funded organisation.



19 Questions the Town Council refuse to answer on page 8

Next Wetherby Town Council Mtg

Tues 14 July at 7pm
www.wetherbytowncouncil.gov.uk
01937 583584 admin@wetherby.co.uk



We Promote Drovers Day

Visit Our Town on Sunday for a Great Afternoon by the River

Only £1.25 for a bag of healthy duck food from Cancer Research near bus station

Have a Paddle, Feed the Ducks & Enjoy the Music

Have you visited our new **J D WETHERSPOON** yet?

The Lions claimed it showed Wetherby to be 'completely irresistible'! We ask some questions on page 7

Our Campaign to Rename Wetherby News Continues



of our stories, particularly about the Town Council eg nothing about our 8.5% increase in Council Tax precept this year! They cause no waves, print no opinions about those in authority, let alone investigate the low standards we highlight. 97% of articles are Harrogate & North Yorkshire. We are lucky to get 3 in the paper from our local area (and they are usually press releases). There is rarely a picture of the river, flowers, market etc in our beautiful town. And they have the cheek to charge £2.30 for it. It's a disgrace. Does anybody seriously read it? **Wetherby, Boston Spa, E Keswick, Collingham Deserve Better**



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

Cemetery Plot For Sale. Mr & Mrs Bastow of Harewood have a plot for sale in Sicklinghall. Offers over £2,500 please. If any Wetherby area residents are interested, pls get in touch with us (see back page) and we'll pass on your details.



Boston Spa 2026
Weekend Festival
10/11/12th July

BOSTON SPA FESTIVAL 2026

10TH CLASSIC CAR EVENT.

SCENIC ROUTE TO HELMSLEY

*** SUNDAY 12TH JULY 2026 ***

Details from
Keith Jackson
khj@ntlworld.com
07740 683079

**9AM START CHURCHFIELDS – RETURNING LATE AFTERNOON
TO STABLES LANE PARK**

CLASSIC CARS * COMMUNITY * CELEBRATION

STRONGER TOGETHER

MALE VOICE CHOIR PERFORMANCE

SAT 4TH JULY
7.30PM (DOORS 7PM)

WEST PARK CENTRE
7 RAGLAN STREET, HARROGATE, HG11LE

FEATURING THE
'SING WHEN YOU'RE WINNING' SINGERS

SUPPORTED BY
HARROGATE MALE VOICE CHOIR

RAISING FUNDS FOR
ANDY'S MAN CLUB

SUICIDE IS THE BIGGEST KILLER OF MEN UNDER 45
IT'S OKAY TO TALK
#ITSOKAYTOTALK

TICKETS £15
(£5 UNDER 16s)

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:
www.ticketsource.com/harrogatemvc

RAISING FUNDS FOR
ANDY'S MAN CLUB

SCAN TO DONATE

TOGETHER WE SING. TOGETHER WE SUPPORT. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Wetherby Choral Society

Music Director: Charlie Murray
Registered Charity 510264

Rossini

Petite Messe Solennelle

Saturday 20 June
2026, 7.30pm
St James's Church,
Wetherby LS22 6LP

Wetherby Choral Society
Charlie Murray - conductor
Rose Johnson - soprano
Hannah Morley - alto
Tom Smith - tenor
Andrew Randall - bass
William Campbell - piano
Valerie Barr - accordion

Tickets: £20 (under-18s FREE) | Book online: wetherbychoral.org.uk

- Nicola Florist, 1 Bank Street, Wetherby (01937 585233) - CASH OR CHEQUE ONLY, NO CARDS
- Tel: 07443 466254 / tickets@wetherbychoral.org.uk
- Any Society member • At the door on the day - cards accepted

Wetherby Foodbank

June 2026 Foodbank Wish List

- Long-life fruit juice
- Tinned cold meats - ham, corned beef etc
- Hot dog sausages - jars or tins
- Instant mash
- Tinned fruit - all types
- Tinned peas
- Tinned sweetcorn
- Tinned carrots
- Tinned custard
- Instant hot chocolate
- Puddings - e.g. jelly, Angel Delight
- Puddings - long-life sponge
- Instant coffee - small jars please
- Deodorants (roll-on)
- Loo cleaner
- Surface cleaner
- Or... make a donation via our website

Thank you!

The Free Press thanks all the many volunteers in Wetherby & Boston Spa for their fantastic work

Communities & Politicians of all Colours Come Together to Stop Development Free-for-all

A community meeting with around 200 people has taken place to discuss a coordinated community response to the scale of development pressure facing Wetherby and the surrounding area. Better Wetherby Partnership Ltd (BWPL) hosted it. A panel of the 3 local Leeds City Councillors, the Mayor and a North Yorkshire councillor spoke at the meeting.

The Boundary of West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire skims around the edge of Wetherby town, with building right up to the border. While Wetherby has confirmed housing provision to meet local needs until 2042, concerns were raised that the North Yorkshire side of the town is vulnerable to large-scale development because of a combination of North Yorkshire's 4,300-home target and a policy gap before its new Local Plan is adopted in 2029.

The meeting highlighted a number of concerns that make the town and surrounding villages particularly vulnerable to development:

1 Changes to Government planning policy have delayed North Yorkshire's new Local Plan, which is now being redrafted and is not expected to be in place until 2029. Until then, communities remain vulnerable to "speculative development", where developers seek to exploit the absence of an adopted plan.

Wetherby has already met the Housing need assessment - carried out by *Leeds City Council* - which confirms that all local housing needs are met until 2042.

2 If developments take place on the North Yorkshire side of Wetherby, the town has no automatic right to receive financial contributions linked to those developments, including council tax revenues and Section 106 funding.

3 New national planning rules mean that refused planning applications involving more than 150 homes will be referred to the Secretary of State



Green Party Cllr Penny Stables, one of three councillors who spoke at the event, said:

"How can the Government keep pushing out these targets? We are in a situation where Westminster is imposing huge housing targets, while at the same time there are already large numbers of approved developments being held as land banks by developers seeking to maximise profit. It was a really positive meeting and encouraging to see different political parties working together on such an important issue for our area. Greens, Conservatives and Labour are all in agreement on this. We now need the support of the Mayors of both the *West and North Yorkshire Combined Authorities*.

We are all calling for Government to work more closely with local communities to establish what is reasonable and feasible in an area, because too often decisions are made without understanding local circumstances.

I believe we need a land tax, which would discourage developers from sitting on land rather than building on it."



"Developers can't just take our land and give nothing back to our GPs, Schools and infrastructure", Cllr Stables added. "That's why I've also been discussing with council planners a range of both short and long-term options to ensure that, if development does take place, Wetherby receives appropriate contributions towards roads, services and local infrastructure, rather than those benefits going entirely to North Yorkshire Council."

Cllr Lamb presented a developer map which he said suggested that up to 5,000 homes could potentially be built through a patchwork of smaller developments around the area in what they're calling the "Wetherby Urban Expansion".

It was said the area could face an additional 30,000 - 40,000 car journeys per day and that Wetherby's historic infrastructure and narrow road network were not designed to cope with that level of traffic.

BWPL also announced that it is commissioning a highways report to examine the transport infrastructure improvements needed to support both current and future demand in the area. Cllr Harrington encouraged residents to respond directly to planning applications through the formal planning process, and advised caution when engaging with developer-led consultations, warning that responses could later be used to support planning applications.

Reminder of Bus Facts for Councillors & MP, Alec Shelbrooke

- ◇ Before Oct 2025 non-car owners subsidised motorists to maintain free car parks
 - ◇ Costs £5 return to Leeds, Otley, York & Garforth and £6 return to Harrogate on the X70/7
 - ◇ *Harrogate Bus Co's* route 7 to Harrogate & Leeds via B Spa was reduced to hourly from half-hourly in Nov '22
 - ◇ *Harrogate Bus Co* cut the 11.30pm bus on route 7 from Harrogate in Nov '22. Last bus now 10.20pm (but 12.25am to K'boro)
 - ◇ **NO SATURDAY service to York (*Connexion's* route 412) or Otley (*Connexion's* route 923) since May 22**
 - ◇ *WYCA/Metro* made a big mess in Wetherby of installing new bus stop flags in 2021. Half the stops are still the old type
 - ◇ Their 7 invaluable bus guide network maps are online only. The Wharfedale one is not even displayed at W'by Bus Sta
- The Labour Mayor Tracy Brabin is ultimately responsible for *WYCA / Metro* performance. They will have more staff and power when franchising comes in. They were the worst performing local transport authority in a national survey in both 2023 & 2024. Opinion based on above facts and many others: *Metro / WYCA* are a large bureaucracy with low standards and a poor record.
- Cllr Alan Lamb is an influential board member so please contact him, and us, about any bus issue - alan.lamb@leeds.gov.uk**

Our Campaign to Brighten Up Wetherby continues

Let's Get Creative

Our Town 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.

We can't even manage a single painted telecoms cabinet! There is nothing with imagination to make you think or smile in Wetherby.

Many of our empty shops look depressing, and are a lost opportunity to promote the town. Many individuals and organisations are responsible, all lacking any creativity to visually improve things.

Most of the shops still open haven't changed their shop fronts in years. We highlight the imaginative businesses that do change them, like *PAWS Grooming* on Crossley Street. Most have no imagination and are not encouraged or helped to make them look special by *Welcome to Wetherby* or *Wetherby Business Association*. Just look at the unattractive front to the old Barclays Bank. No information on it and nothing happening.

More examples of interesting / amusing shop fronts in other Yorkshire towns are below.



Cllr Dean Buckle



Sowerby Bridge



Huddersfield

Norma Thanks All Those Who Didn't Vote For Her!

"A big THANK YOU to everyone who lives in the Wetherby Ward", re-elected Leeds City Cllr Norma Harrington said in her leaflet, right, delivered to every home.

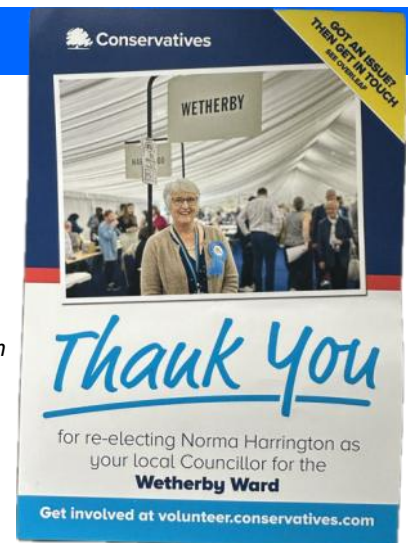
This means that the Conservative Councillor thanked the:

- * 4800 residents who did NOT vote for her ie 56% of those who voted
- * 7800 residents who did NOT vote for her or anybody else



This is clearly very strange behaviour in our strange town. Why would she show any gratitude to the vast majority of Wetherby area residents who did not vote for her - 12,600 in total?

At least Norma managed to identify the area she represents and included "Wetherby Ward" on the leaflet. The Conservative's lack of attention to detail meant nobody noticed the obvious error in her election leaflet, see image. Had they acknowledged it, we wouldn't mention it again.



Norma will "continue to listen to residents", she claims in her leaflet.

This is nonsense as we show in most issues of WFP. As a Wetherby Town Councillor she has ignored the vast majority of issues we raise in her role as a senior influential Councillor and Chair of the Staffing Ctte, see page 8 for examples.

Issue 92 EXTRA will contain meeting minutes digest & 2025 attendance figures.



Accused of Fudging & Censorship by Ex-Cllr in Online Spat

Ex-Wetherby Town Cllr Billie Ager-Mills has written a sardonic post on social media in response to the road repairs done before Drovers Day. She also points out that Norma turned off the comments underneath the post.

By turning off comments, Norma seems to want to restrict freedom of speech and not 'listen to residents', as stated on her leaflet.

We find it disappointing that Ms Ager-Mills did not once raise any issues like this with us when she was a Cllr when she had some influence. She seems to speak freely now that she isn't one.

Perhaps she would like to explain why this is or why she left. She has not yet made a general apology for using the term 'nutter' (Issue 90).



From the Common & Simple to the Rare & Stunning - Goosemoor

Summer is with us once again and the world is very green again. You will see plenty of wildlife at *Goosemoor* nature reserve 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.

You are very unlikely to see puffins there but what terrifically weird and colourful birds they are.

If you would like to help out at the reserve, they always welcome new volunteers. Details on the internet or contact us if you aren't online.



Blue Tit

Thanks to Jack Evans



Puffin

Thanks to BBC Springwatch

Parking Restrictions Proposed by City Council

Leeds City Council is proposing to amend Off-Street Parking Places to:

- 1 Incorporate Wetherby One Stop, Wetherby Leisure Centre & Wetherby Sports Association Car Parks as Off-Street Parking Places (operating Monday to Saturday 8.00am–6.00pm) subject to a maximum period of stay of 3 hours (except for vehicles issued with and displaying a valid permit)
- 2 Amend the maximum period of stay for the existing Off-Street Parking Place at Crossley Street Car Park (operating Monday to Saturday 8.00am–6.00pm) from 2 hours to 3 hours (except for vehicles issued with and displaying a valid permit).
- 3 The classes of vehicles eligible to park within the off-street parking places will be all motor vehicles (not having a trailer attached); the weight of which does not exceed 3.5 tons maximum gross weight; mobility vehicles and motorcycles.

Our correspondent says:

“ Firstly, there is no such Car Park for the Wetherby One Stop because this is now situated in Wetherby Public Library/Wetherby Community Library and Hub (or whatever they call it)!

Secondly, there were details on the notice about who to object to and by when. The notice was dated 18 May 2026 and objections were to be made no later than Monday 4 June 2026. The 4th of June in 2026 was not a Monday, it was a Thursday!

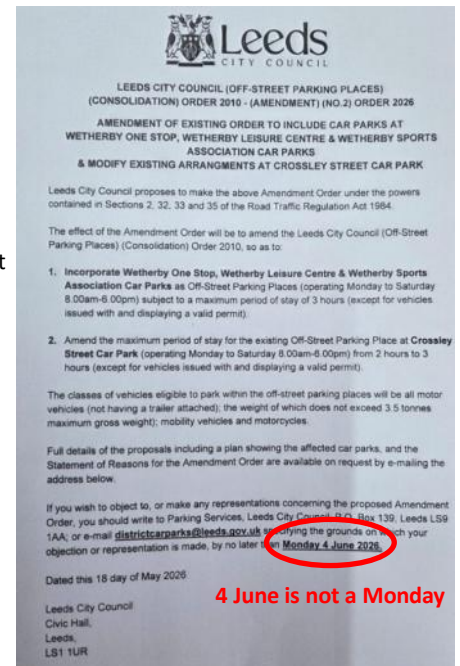
Thirdly, it's amazing what Leeds City Council can do when they want to. We were promised a change in traffic regulations to avoid bus blocking on Castlegate but this never happened! ”

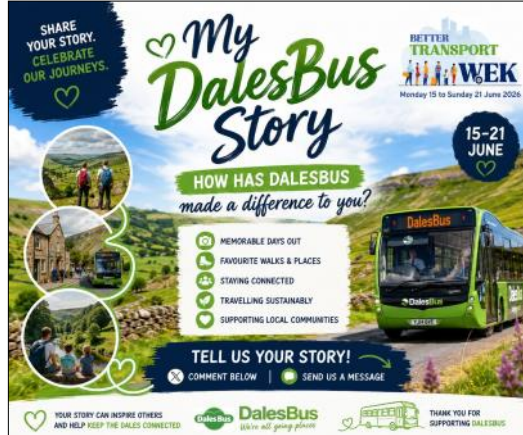
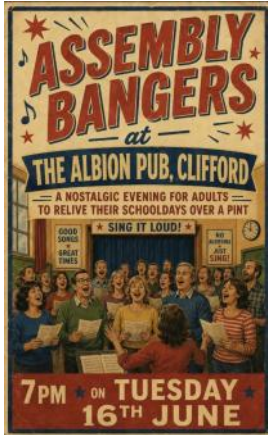
Another reader, R Carter, says

“ LCC have made an error re this consultation ... incorrect days and dates on the legal notice ... Monday 4 June is not on my calendar for 2026! I highlighted this to LCC and they have not responded yet. Whatever anyone thinks of the proposals I feel the consultation is invalid at this stage.

I do not support the changes as it will have unintended consequences. The NHS use the car park for screening tests and this will need to be re-located or exemptions made. Use of the Leisure facilities will reduce - attendance at swimming, football matches etc, many directly reducing LCC income. There will also be an impact on wellbeing for low income families. The provision of a 2 or 3 hour free parking period would cover most of these concerns while also reducing and charging all day parkers. Leisure centre users could have free parking via permits or refunds but this adds costs and complexity, which is not ideal, thus the suggested 2 or 3 hour free parking period.

The new parking charges across Wetherby have resulted in many parkers simply seeking free parking in all adjacent areas and a full impact assessment of these proposed changes must also take this spill over behaviour into account. ”





Using AI to Promote Your Message: Quick, simple & free - suddenly many are using it. Some are very good, others not so much. Let's hope they don't all end up having the same look and flooding social media.



Drovers Day 'Burst of Pure Joy'!

We are pleased that the many who attended had a wonderful day out. We promoted it ourselves on local social media groups to attract more visitors, see page 2.

This is the main event for Wetherby in the year. Knaresborough has its famous bed race and Otley has its Otley Show & Otley Carnival - these are summer events for the whole family with a wide appeal.

We ask the simple question - does a brass band competition have a broad appeal? Does it say 'Families come along - you'll have loads of fun'? Do people actually know what drovers are? Is it weird, unique or wonderful enough to attract local TV news to cover it? (answer no; it wasn't on Look North or Calendar).

It was amusing that the *Wetherby Lions* who organised it went completely over the top with their description of the event. This is what they said:

Compare with adverts above. Does it have general appeal?

“ Big sounds. Big smiles. Big crowds. Every corner felt alive! Local shops and the market stalls thrived. People talked, laughed, applauded, lingered. Families filled the riverside area with drinks, ice creams and bacon butties! Our community at its best! Drovers' Day wasn't just an event. It was Wetherby showing off — loud, proud, and completely irresistible! ”

It sounds like AI wrote that exaggerated text. Why are they trying so hard? Perhaps because they know the town does not have the community spirit to organise a general show or carnival which would be far more attractive to the general public, and which many other Yorkshire villages and towns can manage to organise, see page 9. We can't despite having a *Town Council* 'Events Officer'.

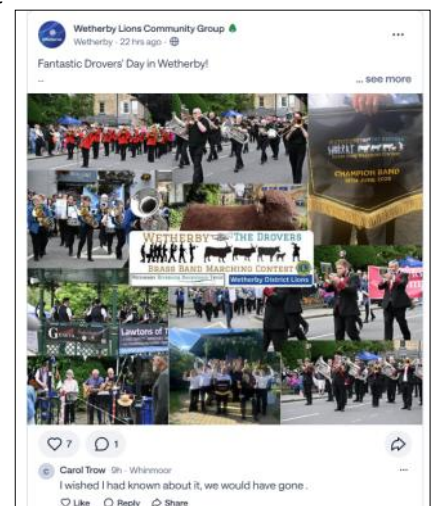
Was it well publicised? Looking at the only comment on *Nextdoor* after 22 hours on the forum, it appears not, see right.

Were the posters good enough to attract visitors? Six photos were included when only one was needed - and every single photo was of a brass band. Not one of the river, a happy child, the artisan market Like the *Town Council's* town leaflet, it is a poor effort aimed at mainly the elderly.

Do the *Lions* do any research to find out how many attendees were out-of-towners, what attracted them, what else should be on offer apart from a market etc. Why don't they ask parents outside a local primary school if they know what drovers are, if it was well publicised, if they attended etc. It's not difficult. One of the *WFP* team can help them, if requested.

No doubt, there will be many, like the *Wetherby Mafia*, who ignore the first 2 sentences and our offer of help, and make derogatory remarks about us for asking questions & voicing facts / opinions.

We are pleased that folk seemed to have had such an incredibly good time but only a certain group of people would think this deserves to be Wetherby's main annual event. It will be years before the *Town Council's* *Welcome to Wetherby* (current Chair Cllr Dean Buckle) organises a unique and broadly-appealing event.



Leeds resident ignorant of the event

Unanswered Questions So Far in 2026 - showing WTC is NOT Open & Accountable



Norma Harrington
Conservative

Wetherby Town Council (WTC)'s Chair of Staffing Cttee, Cllr Norma Harrington (NH) and the Town Clerk, Dianne Rickaby have not responded to / commented on the following:



- 1 why we were not given any hint of the contents of a 'Confidential Report by Town Clerk' (Issue 87)
- 2 why 3 Council staff were present at a *Welcome to Wetherby* mtg and whether the Council is overstaffed (I87)

3 why NH expected an apology to the Mayor's girlfriend from us (I87)

4 why NH refused to back up Cllr Lamb's comment that Cllr Buckle does an 'excellent job' as Chair of *Welcome to Wetherby* (I87)

5 our claim that the Editor's meeting with NH has resulted in little progress (I87)

6 why the staff organisation chart lacks vital information (I88)

7 why staff costs have DOUBLED in 3 years and now cost us almost half the £725K budget (I89 Extra)

8 why staff costs are now hidden from us in their official documentation (I89 Extra & I90)

9 why they did not post anything about the vacancy left by the passing of Cllr Kazia Knight until the last minute (I89)

10 why the Council cannot keep staff - the Admin Officer lasted just 1 year. Recruitment is costly (I90)

11 why January's Staff meeting minutes were still NOT published 2.5 months after the meeting (I90 & 91)

12 the disgraceful slur written in the minutes against us regarding Kazia Knight (I90)

13 the obvious error in NH's election leaflet (I90)

14 why they added clauses to the complaints procedure so that they can dismiss reasonable complaints as 'vexatious' to avoid difficult questions (I90)

15 our view that 'staff remuneration is within guidelines' means they are paid the maximum (I90)

16 why they do not compare staff costs with other nearby town councils (I90)

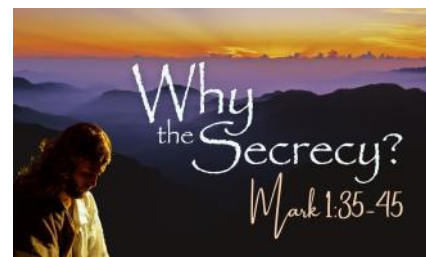
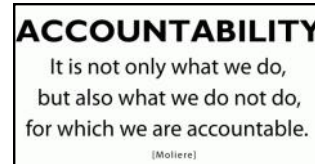
17 the claim by a former Cllr that the Comms & Events Officer was employed as 'a knee-jerk reaction' to us, the *Wetherby Free Press* (I90)

18 why 2 Admin staff resigned at the same time and why the Council can't retain staff (I91)

19 Why there was no summary or anything at all about a 'comprehensive staffing report' in minutes (I91)



Dianne Rickaby
Town Clerk



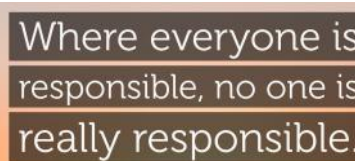
The minutes of all meetings are ultimately their responsibility. Many are not of a high standard as we have stated many times eg in Issue 87. **Cllr Harrington and the Town Clerk should respond immediately to the most important of the above issues that we have highlighted in bold. It is not too late.**

Meanwhile, if you want to know the answers to any of these questions (and pass the responses to us), please write to them at

clerk@wetherby.gov.uk & norma.harrington@wetherby.gov.uk and copy us in please.

Too often Cllrs hide behind joint responsibility, so that no one person is responsible for anything.

The above proves beyond any shadow of a doubt that this Town Council is NOT 'Open & Accountable' to the Editor and our readers. It is a disgrace to democracy.



A Bus User Wants No Extra Services, Just Better Ones !

John W of Wetherby has written about a no. 8 bus Wetherby to Knaresborough not turning up. He was told by 21 Transport that it had broken down and no service would arrive for over an hour. He says their 16-seater minibuses "are often late and the state of the vehicles provided by 21 Transport hardly inspires confidence." He says the service is "not acceptable" and would like someone at Leeds City Council "to get a handle on this".

He goes on to complain about **Connexions Buses**, saying they are "serial offenders when it comes to cancelled buses, rescheduling services and punctuality". In response, Craig Temple from the company said Mr W's statement was completely unwarranted. He provided an explanation about the one example Mr W gave about a late bus. Regarding rescheduling, he says "We haven't changed a timetable in the Harrogate area since October 2022!". Craig invited Mr W to his office to "try and work out how to run buses better".

John W then states "I fundamentally disagree with Cllr Penny Stables with her aim to increase the number of buses on certain routes. The priority, in my opinion, is to ensure the current advertised bus services run as they should. It is totally unacceptable that people's time is wasted on waiting for buses that do not arrive."

We are astounded that anybody would want fewer buses! Most people would rather have a service than not have one, whatever the quality. Bus companies don't want to run unreliable services - most delays are out of their control ie accidents, roadworks. We hope John W takes up Craig's offer to see what challenges they face, and report back on his experience.



2026 BOSTON SPA FESTIVAL 2026

10th Anniversary

Fri 10th pm, Sat 11th, Sun 12th July

£3.00
Cash Only

8 - 14th July Scarecrow Trail,
Available from: Costcutter and Monroes



Venues are St Mary's Church, Millennium Gardens, Stable Lanes Park, Village Hall Methodist Church, The Crown & The Terrace. For more details visit their Facebook account [bostonspafestival](#) or visit the village hall website at

www.bostonspavillagehall.co.uk

The contact is Jeff Newton on 07764 769 616 or email jeff.newtonbspa@gmail.com

This fantastic event takes place annually and is attractive to all members of the community, especially families. It is organised by volunteers. Their marketing is very good - the most important information is in the posters above. They don't need AI to produce good quality material, see page 7.

Obvious question: Why can't Wetherby Town Council with its paid staff and massive budget compared to Boston Spa come up with something similar to this for the whole family? See page 7 for Wetherby's event of the year.

Wetherby in Bloom - "Out with the Old and In with the New"

It's that time again!

Our winter hanging baskets are down and the summer ones are already up, bringing a burst of colour back into town.

We've emptied the planters in the town centre and we're now filling them up one by one with gorgeous summer plants. And those photos of the stunning plants stacked on racks? Believe it or not, that's only a tiny fraction of what Riverside Plants delivered a few days ago.

A huge thank you to our amazing volunteers — you'll spot them out and about in the early evenings, watering baskets and planters and keeping everything looking its best 🌸

We add our thanks and remind readers they always welcome new volunteers.





Rhinos Charge the Wolves in Battle for Top

Super League				
	Pld	Pts	PD	
1	Leeds	15	24	+284
2	Warrington	14	22	+172
3	Hull KR	13	18	+245
4	Wigan	14	18	+106
5	Wakefield	14	18	+75
6	St Helens	14	18	+18
7	Leigh	14	16	+20
8	Catalans	14	14	-112
9	Hull FC	14	10	-32
10	Bradford	14	10	-121
11	Castleford	14	10	-166
12	Toulouse	14	8	-118
13	York Knights	14	6	-145
14	Huddersfield	14	4	-226



And it was a stampede. They gave Warrington a sound beating 6 - 34 at their Halliwell Jones Stadium. Visits to Cheshire or Wembley nearly always end in defeat for Leeds but

not this time. The Wolves fell apart in the second half when Hankinson scored soon after the break to make it 2 - 22. Their spirit seemed to break and Leeds man-of-the-moment Maika Sivo took full advantage, scoring a hat-trick.



Maika Sivo

This is the strongest team the Headingley faithful is enjoying for years. The Rhinos embarrassed Champions Hull KR in Las Vegas and should fear no team this season. Hopes are high that with half the season gone, Leeds will be in close contention for the League Leader's Shield and Grand Final.



Card for Leeds Utd Dads

Apology to Toon Army

A reader has claimed a right of reply which we publish here.

“I was outraged to read “Newcastle amused us all by going bananas over winning a Mickey Mouse (League) Cup last season”.

That win may have been first domestic trophy in 70 years but that ignores the wins in the Texaco Cup in 1973 & 74, the InterCity Fairs cup in 1969, the Anglo Italian Cup in 1973, the Kirin Cup Soccer in 1983 and of course the Intertoto Cup a mere 20 years ago.

How can the Rumbelows / Milk / Cola Cup be described as Mickey Mouse when it has illustrious former winners such as Swindon Town, Stoke City, Oxford United, Luton Town and Swansea City? ”

Our Newcastle fan reader is quite right. We are sorry for denigrating these cups and the club's achievements. We hope he will forgive us in time.

Fascinating Fact: There are 12 Sunderland players in the World Cup.



Definitely Not in Newcastle's Trophy Cabinet



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Editor: **Paul Kirby** Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me
 Tel: 07840 862861 Twitter/X: [@wbyfreepress](https://twitter.com/wbyfreepress)

Everyone mentioned in the WFP has a right to reply. The reply will be published unedited.

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 are 'cut & paste from press releases' merchants. 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. We, or you, cannot be sued for libel/defamation as long as what is published is

True or Honest Opinion or in the Public Interest

Unjustifiable threats of legal action can be seen as harassment.

The Editor has had 8 'Meet the Editor' events so far. None of our harshest online critics have turned up yet to have a mature face-to-face discussion.



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