



*They  
Died for  
Our  
Freedom  
of  
Speech*

# WETHERBY

ISSUE 85 until Dec 2025

# Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

## Candidates for Wetherby West

For Election on **Thurs 13 Nov**

Hayley Guy	Green
Malcolm Gardner	Labour
Warren Coates	Conservative

It is disappointing that the good folk of Wetherby West do not have a wider choice of parties.

Where are the Lib Dems, Reform & Independent candidates? Stewart Golton, Leader of the Lib Dems on Leeds City Council told us: "Yes, it



is disappointing that we don't have a candidate.

I'm afraid the members we approached that we hoped might be candidates weren't in a position to commit themselves at this time".

There was 10% between the Greens and Conservatives last time in this Ward, see page 8.

**Candidates Not Yet Announced by Town Council!** Nothing on their website or Facebook page 3 weeks after the names were known. Why?



We pay for a 'Communications Officer' who is not providing basic information to residents. Yet another example of this Council not doing their job properly. Yet they put pointless messages like 'Good Morning All' on their Facebook page. *Incredible.*

We need Councillors who are willing to speak up against the low standards of this one-party dominated Council.

**If you live in the ward, which includes the Spofforth Hill area, please vote - this election is costing the town £10,000+ and the winner will be one of 16 people (including the Town Clerk) who are responsible for spending £675,000 of our money this year.**

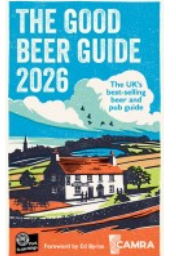
Nothing yet in the 'Wetherby News' about this important election.

## WETHERSPOONS

'Spoons update

And which Wetherby bar is in the latest GBG 2016?

Page 6



**Local Man Died in A58 Crash.** It has been confirmed



that the Aston Martin driver in this tragic accident lived in Scarcroft. It was reported in the national media as the 63 year-old millionaire was a CEO at Aviva.

## Business Complains Over Tender

A local businessman was unhappy when he did not win a contract with Wetherby Town Council. His tender was £2000 lower than the winning bid. Read how he was treated on page 8.



Another business is upset with the Council and its Continental Market - see page 10.

## Award for Ashfield



Jess Vertigan & Karen Dean

**Ashfield Nursing & Residential Home** has been awarded a national Gold Standards Framework (GSF) Quality Hallmark Award in recognition of the excellent end of life care they provide. They were one of 172 organisations in the UK to receive the award.



**Full Issue at** [www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press](http://www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press)



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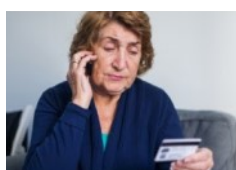
# Thank You to our 1000s of Readers

Please send your News, Views & Events to:  
[WetherbyFreePress@PM.me](mailto:WetherbyFreePress@PM.me)



Don't Miss Out - Join our Large Mailing List by emailing: [WetherbyFreePress@PM.me](mailto:WetherbyFreePress@PM.me)

## 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**

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



\* I tried to walk like an Egyptian and now I need to see a Cairo practor.

\* What's the difference between unlawful and illegal? One is in violation of the law and the other is a sick bird.

\* I still remember when my doctor told me that the plastic surgery was free of charge. The look on my face was priceless.

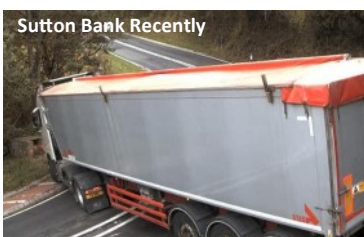
\* Just got my paintball exam results. I passed with flying colors.

\* Gambling addiction hotlines would be more successful if every tenth caller was a winner.

\* Gotta watch out, the internet is full of scams nowadays. For just £20, I'll teach you how to spot them.

\* What happens when young pilots misbehave? They get grounded.

\* I'm not saying you're stupid, but when the zombie was



out looking for brains to eat and walked right past you, I started to wonder.

\* I just opened my water bill and electric bill at the same time. What a shocking experience.

\* Where do bees like to vacation? Stingapore.

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 independently run from the newsletter.



Follow & Don't Get



## Next Wetherby Town Council Mtg

Tues 11 Nov at 7pm

[www.wetherbytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.wetherbytowncouncil.gov.uk)

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

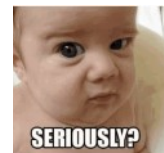


## Wetherby Town Council - Page 9

Yet again we have to report a meeting was cancelled because not enough Councillors turned up. This is the third month on the run a meeting was 'inquate'. It wastes people's time and delays progress. It is nearly a year since the 'month of shame' - December 2024 when SIX meetings were cancelled. The Council's reaction? Send a letter from the Mayor who decided against meeting Councillors one-on-one.



Claim that *Welcome to Wetherby* do an 'excellent job'. We think the opposite. Evidence on page 5.



Full Council Meeting lasts just over half an hour. Proof that Councillors have little interest in the committees they are not a member of? This is why so many mistakes and inconsistencies are not noticed.



Town Hall Lift Replacement would cost £55K



Two Incidents of Indecent Exposure Reported at Park

Freedom of Information Requests 'would be refused' - Open and Accountable Council?

Plus inconsistency in minute-taking, flags on lamp-posts, BMX Track still not finished and much more ..... see page 9



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



## Timetables Still Wrong - Incompetent Metro / WYCA Responsible

There are two large timetable posters at Wetherby bus station. Metro / WYCA updated one (many weeks after the new X98/99 started) but not the other. It has contained wrong times for 2 months now.

In the library there are no bus timetable leaflets for 3 of our services (8, 174 & 492). Metro are duty-bound to print timetable leaflets for those routes where the bus company does not. So why don't they?

You would hope our Leeds City Councillor and representative on the board of Metro/ WYCA would be active on issues like this. We wrote to him:



Cllr Lamb (Con)

"Dear Alan,  
Since you have become a Board Member of WYCA / Metro, I have not noticed any improvement in their performance or standards. Indeed it has got worse in one of their core functions -

providing correct information. They used to be competent at updating bus stop info in timetable cases."

We described the 2 failings above and continued:

"Do you agree that this is incompetence and is another example of their low standards? Please could you tell me your opinion on this and inform me what you wish to do about this, if anything. Your reluctance to copy me in to any emails in the past is frustrating. How else do I know you are taking any action at all on an issue? Your strength of feeling for motorists on the other hand is clear for all to see following the time and effort you put into campaigning against car parking charges. Plse copy me in to any emails you send.

Why does Metro not print timetables for these important rural (and therefore at risk) services? Please inform me what action you will take in this regard.

Many thanks. Kind regards"

Cllr Lamb has not acknowledged our email after 10 days. We note he does find time to write many posts on social media and respond to comments. We look forward to the day he will condemn low standards in plain English and inform those responsible that their performance is unacceptable. Otherwise we will continue to think he doesn't actually do anything to resolve these issues.



Out of date times



Correct times but unreadable on left hand side



Tim Taylor of WYCA  
No response to our accusations of incompetence.

## Your Bus to the Dales Winter 2025

Sundays until 29 Mar 2026



### See the stunning Autumn colours in the Dales this Sunday.

The 874 runs every Sunday from Wetherby throughout the winter direct to Upper Wharfedale via Leeds & Bolton Abbey.

It leaves Wetherby bus station at 8.35  
Collingham, Brookside at 8.39  
Scarcroft, opp The Inn at 8.45

and all stops along the A58 to Leeds on X98/99 route.

It's FREE for concessionary pass holders (elderly and disabled).

Only £3 single and network rover tickets from £10 (valid on the 7 to Harrogate).

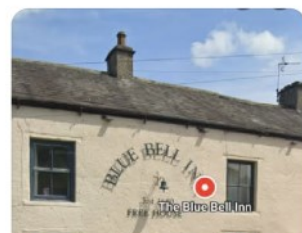
DalesBus is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company, set up to give everyone the opportunity to enjoy the Yorkshire Dales National Park on a network of routes at weekends.

## Nonsense on Social Media from a Critic



Somebody points out the obvious:

Ian Giddings The picture is labelled Kettlewell. Kettlewell has a pub called The Blue Bell Inn (see my attached google search pic). The bus is shown as heading to Wetherby. Where is the misrepresentation???



We promoted the excellent DalesBus service above on social media and was surprised to read an absurd response, left.

Somebody pointed out why his comment was nonsense, as seen underneath.

The author, Ian Giddings, is a harsh critic of the Editor and Free Press. He is the chef at Cllr Lamb's pub in Kirk Deighton. His desire to find fault with such a simple post that benefits the community is disturbing. His anger is not healthy either (3 angry emojis). Perhaps Mr Giddings would like to meet with the Editor to discuss his deep-seated grievances and he may feel less angry.

## Reminder of Bus Facts for Councillors & MP, Alec Shelbrooke

- ◇ Before Oct 2025 non-car owners subsidised motorists through Council Tax to maintain free car parks
  - ◇ Costs £4 return to Knaresborough, £5 return to Leeds, Otley, York & Garforth and £5/£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 WEEKEND 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 plse contact him, and us, about any bus issue - alan.lamb@leeds.gov.uk**

# Wetherby News

NEWSWATCH

23 Oct 1 News Items. 0 Letters

Fatal Crash on A58.

30 Oct 1 News Item. 0 Letters

Plans for £25M rebuild of Wetherby High

6 Nov 2 News Item. 0 Letters

Another Martin House press release

Wetherspoons (non-story, work is well underway)

*Sad Decline of  
Local Journalism*



We are recording the number of general news items about Wetherby / Boston Spa & villages. And the number of letters/emails from residents about the area in the published paper, costing £2.20.

We do this in the hope they will wake up and take up some of our stories. Not so far - they are ignoring almost all of the serious issues in our great town and do not deserve to have the word 'Wetherby' in their title. It makes our role more important than ever.

Last year we monitored 48 editions of the paper and found there were just over 1 item of 'news' (often a press release) on average costing readers £1.91 per item. And just 1 letter in the whole year from a Wetherby area person. This year is looking the same.

## No Support from Cllr Lamb for our Generous Offer



If you cannot afford to park because of the new charges, and have tried all other options to get a lift, then

\*\* the Free Press will organise a FREE LIFT to your charity shop and home again \*\*



**A Newsletter that Acts as well as Gives Facts** 😊

*Image used to promote our offer on social media*

In our last edition we offered to give our wonderful charity volunteers a lift to their shop because of the new charges in the Wilderness car park. This affects a substantial number of workers, according to our councillors who opposed the charges, particularly Cllr Lamb.

We asked Cllr Lamb to promote our offer on social media. He refused to do so because of his concerns regarding 'safeguarding and insurance'.

We explained to Cllr Lamb that the Editor was a popular, reliable volunteer driver for WISE for many years with no complaints.

We also pointed out the obvious; that the charity shop manager is responsible for any safeguarding issue, not him. Managers will no doubt interview the Editor or anyone else in depth.

We told Cllr Lamb that the Editor often gives his elderly neighbour a lift to his holiday coach drop-off point, no money exchanged. How is that any different from our offer? It does not invalidate any insurance.

*It seems to us that Cllr Lamb is using excuses not to help resolve a problem that he claims is a large one. It is bizarre that he is so reluctant to help support a practical solution.*

*We have been disappointed with Cllr Lamb's attitude before eg bus blocking issue - his main advice was to get passengers to report the incidents to police.*

*Any facts or opinions sent in support of Cllr Lamb with this or any other issue, will be published.*

## Green Candidate for Wetherby West

Hayley Guy tells us: "I am delighted to be standing for the Green Party in the Wetherby Town Council election on 13th November, because I care deeply about people, and the place we call home.

Having grown up in a deprived area of Leeds, I have seen how inequality affects families and communities. As a single mum of 4, I know the everyday challenges people in similar situations face, from the rising cost of living, to accessing good local services, which is why I have always helped out in my local community and try to make life easier for others, and why I want to be a strong, compassionate, empathetic voice for Wetherby.

I believe local politics should be about fairness, sustainability, and integrity. The Green Party values reflect my own; protecting our environment, supporting local families, and building communities where everyone can thrive.

If elected, I'll listen and stand up for what's right, and work hard to make Wetherby cleaner, fairer and more connected, for all and future generations.

As well as supporting the work that Penny Stables is already doing in the community, my top priorities are:

- ⇒ Help to find a safe space for women to speak freely on a regular basis, and support their children and families facing any issues such as domestic violence
- ⇒ To help support, small, independent, local businesses to thrive
- ⇒ Supporting local foodbanks, and any other charities for vulnerable people



**Leeds City Cllr Penny Stables and Hayley Guy, Candidate**

**Hayley has offered to meet up with anyone who wishes to discuss an issue with her. Call 07830 886849 or email [HayleyForChange@gmail.com](mailto:HayleyForChange@gmail.com)**

*We did not receive anything from the Labour or Conservative candidates*



# High Praise for *Welcome to Wetherby* from Cllr Lamb

“Excellent job”

Says our  
Conservative  
Leeds City  
Councillor  
Alan Lamb



## We Look at the Evidence of the Last 4 Years

On page 5 of the last issue we quoted Leeds City Cllr Alan Lamb who described *Welcome to Wetherby* as doing an ‘excellent job’. We asked him what this strong opinion was based on. He could not provide any evidence to back up his high praise; not a single example.

The first part of the evidence to contradict Cllr Lamb’s view is stated below, which will over the following issues prove to be overwhelming in our view. We think their performance is the opposite of ‘excellent’ and that it’s time that Committee Chair Cllr Dean Buckle (Con) considers his position and lets somebody with creativity, marketing ideas, imagination, communication skills and high standards take it over.

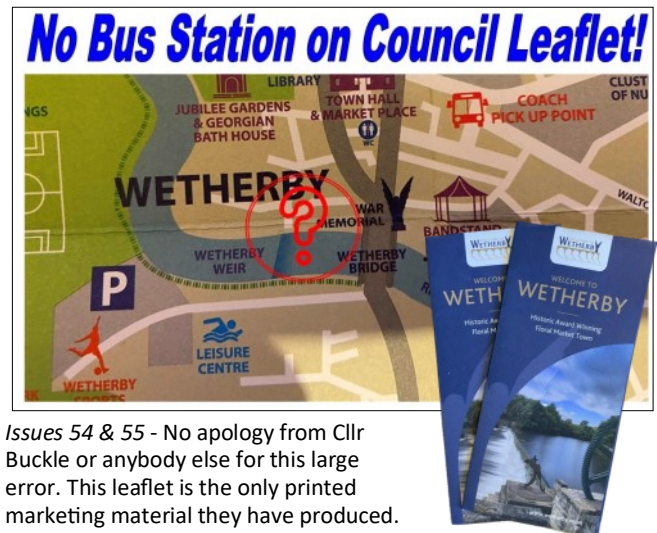
*Wetherby Deserves Better*

Facts Cllr Lamb provided to back up his opinion:

**None**

**NO  
EVIDENCE**

We copied Chair of *Welcome to Wetherby*, Cllr Buckle into our correspondence with Cllr Lamb. The Conservative councillor has not responded to any of our suggestions or criticism in the last 4 years. For the first time he did not ignore us. *We were surprised .....*



Issues 54 & 55 - No apology from Cllr Buckle or anybody else for this large error. This leaflet is the only printed marketing material they have produced. After years in the planning, the final product was dull and many images were far too small and dark to make any impression. Half of the picture of a bus was the road! The bandstand photo had no band in it. There is not a single smiling face in the leaflet. How is that for a ‘Welcome to Wetherby’? No consultation, no advertising found to pay for it, so the taxpayer (us) forked out for £1500 for the design alone.

## Comparison with Otley



Issue 19 compared our marketing literature with Otley’s. Our neighbouring town along the Wharfe is similar to ours and makes the most of its natural assets and character. The higher quality of their output is obvious. We had 4 lower quality leaflets in 2022 and nothing much has changed since we reported on it then.

There is much more evidence to show just how little this committee has achieved, compared to other towns.

To be continued in the next issue, when roadside banners & signs, food & drink booklets and the Town Council website feature.

*To be continued...*

## Acceptable from a Ctte Chair?

... then we were flabbergasted. We could not believe such an inept response could come from a Councillor in such an important role. No wonder standards are so low and such little progress (if any) has been made in promoting the town. The poor formatting, spelling, grammar, punctuation and totally inadequate content is there for all to see. It is the standard of a 12-year old (with apologies to above average 12-years olds).

Cllr Dean Buckle, Chair of  
*Welcome to Wetherby*

If you would like to defend Cllr Buckle’s email or the Committee’s performance, please send us the evidence and we will publish it. The same applies for anybody wishing to defend Cllr Lamb’s refusal to provide evidence to back up his statement.



## Bowling Club Win 3rd Division

Alex May of Wetherby Bowls Club tells us that they have had an excellent season with their team in the Harrogate Crown Green League.



The team at Grange Park won the 3rd division and therefore achieved promotion to the 2nd division next year.

Another of their teams in the Barkston Ash Crown Green League (this is a Leeds league) came top of the 4th division and so move up to the 3rd division next year.

Alex adds "Unfortunately our Wednesday and Friday teams didn't do to well but both ended up middle of the leagues. We also have a Flat Green team but they also ended up in the middle of the league."



## Sandbeck Est Brewery in GBG 2026

Every year the *Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA)* publishes the *Good Beer Guide (GBG)* with the pubs that really look after the quality of the real ales. It costs £16.99 at *Waterstones* Harrogate where you'll find it in the Travel section, not Food & Drink!

But it's not just the real ale they're interested in. Members of the local CAMRA group take into account customer service, décor and atmosphere on their regular visits.

Wetherby pubs have sadly rarely featured in the book's pages. This edition features Bosun's Brewery Co Tap Room on the Sandbeck Estate, as did the 2025 one. Well done to them, particularly being so far from the town centre.

More of our bars, pubs and brewery premises in the book would surely attract more drinkers to the town. But at the moment they are more likely to head to Otley & Knaresborough.



Pubs in Good Beer Guide	2024	2025	2026
<b>Wetherby</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Otley</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Knaresborough</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

As for the Wetherspools in the latest guide, there are 5 in West & North Yorkshire. They are in

Harrogate, Ripon, Batley, Bingley & Pudsey.

Our Wetherspools, The Angel, is

due to open just before Christmas. Work looks to be progressing well but we asked our contact if it will be open on time.

He confirmed that it will - Tuesday 23 December. News due out on our day of publication. Will insert under this page when announced.



## Cycling Clubs Join Forces to Raise £100s for Air Ambulance

“ Wetherby Wheelers and Knaresborough Cycling Club have joined in a social ride to Masham. Between them the riders donated £640 to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, always hoping that we don't need them. The photoshoot for the cheque handover in September was disrupted by an emergency meeting at YAA HQ near Wakefield but it was still an excuse for a good ride with members from both clubs and



we found a new café which is always good! ”

The Wheelers website is at

[wetherbywheelers.co.uk](http://wetherbywheelers.co.uk)

and both clubs can be contacted via their Facebook pages.

Visit to Wetherby 3 years ago





# Campaign to Brighten up Wetherby Continues

On a recent walk in Knaresborough, we were delighted to find some interesting and creative sights.

We would love to highlight anything similar in the Wetherby area. If you know of any piece of art / sculpture that makes you smile or go 'wow!', please send us a pic or tell us where it is and we'll take one. There does seem to be a lack of creativity in our community, compared to others.



**Knaresborough**



If there are any local artists who want to showcase their work, the first place to get advice on what is possible would be Wetherby Town Council (and its Welcome to Wetherby Ctte, Chair Cllr Dean Buckle).

Please keep us informed of progress.

## Goosemoor Nature Reserve in Cowthorpe

This amazing wildlife sanctuary is down War Field Lane in Cowthorpe. It is a peaceful place to watch some amazing wildlife. Not just a fantastic variety of birds but also bats, bugs, newts, moths, butterflies, small mammals and other animals like fox and deer.

Their Facebook group 'Goosemoor Nature Reserve Group' has more wonderful images like these.

If you would like to help out, they always welcome new volunteers. Details online or contact us if you aren't online. Thanks to Dave Ward & Debbie Drake for taking these incredible photos.

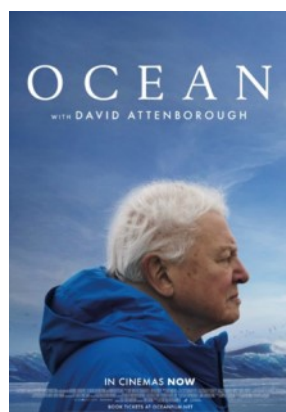


**Sparrowhawk by Dave Ward**



**Blue Tit**

**Debbie Drake**



Tickets are now on sale for David Attenborough's 'Ocean' film showing at Wetherby Cinema on **Mon 10 Nov**

Latest newsletter at:

**[www.bostongreengroup.co.uk](http://www.bostongreengroup.co.uk)**

*Adrian Balcombe* Chair

**[adrian.balcombe@bostongreengroup.co.uk](mailto: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).





# Reminder Why Voting is Important in Wetherby Town Council Election

## Large Increases in their Precept (half budget spent on staff)

Cllr Norma Harrington (Con) is Chair of Staffing Ctte and a Leeds City Councillor. The Town Hall building is also a massive drain on resources

### 80% Council Tax Rise by Wetherby Town Council: THE FACTS

	22/23	23/24	
<b>Otley</b>			
Personnel (Staff) Budget	£213K	£229K	+ 7.5%
% of Total Budget	39%	37%	- 2%
<b>Wetherby</b>			
Personnel (Staff) Budget	£161K	£305K	+ 90%
% of Total Budget	54%	56%	+ 2%
Total Budget	£300K	£540K	+80%

- ⇒ Otley to spend £76,000 less than Wetherby on staff
  - ⇒ Otley does not need or want a 'Communications Manager'
  - ⇒ Wetherby spends well over half their total budget on staff
  - ⇒ Otley have always spent less than 40% of their total budget on staff
  - ⇒ You won't find these % or comparison figures in the Council's 'Budget Bulletin' or the 'Wetherby News'
  - ⇒ Otley is Lib-Dem Dominated, Wetherby is all-Conservative (a low tax party!?)
- See page 5 for what Wetherby Town Council needs over half a million quid for.

**TIME TO WAKE UP WETHERBY!**  
An 80% increase in these hard times?



Figures to nearest 100	Population in 2021	Parish Precept 2024/25	Parish Precept 2025/26	% Increase
<b>Wetherby</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>£540,000</b>	<b>£593,700</b>	<b>10%</b>
Morley	32,000	£220,000	£242,000	10%
Boston Spa	4,500	£74,100	£78,400	6%
Horsforth	21,000	£144,900	£152,400	5%
Otley	14,100	£487,000	£502,500	3%

Why does Wetherby Town Council need **double** the amount of money than Morley, which has 3x the population & 26 Councillors (we have 15) Horsforth with more residents needs 4 times less money than Wetherby Why? And why do W'by residents pay 3 times more percentage-wise than Otley residents?

## No explanation or apology from 2 worst Cllrs for attending meetings (both in Editors ward too)



Paul Bradley  
Conservative

Worst Attenders

**38%**  
**30%**

May 24 - May 25



Jane Lavocah  
No Party

## Wrong Bus Info on Town Council Website

www.wetherby.co.uk

Wrong: Harrogate Bus Co took over the route in Sep '22, 1.5 years ago

Wrong: Not been 77 for years - it is 492 & goes to Sherburn now too

Wrong: 21 Transport Ltd run it now

Image sent to them by the Editor but no credit given

Out-of-date. First Bus no longer serve Wetherby

All this info has been in our only community newsletter, the Wetherby Free Press, so there's no excuse for not knowing about it

No mention of the £2 fare to attract visitors to Wetherby

We sent this to all Town Councillors & Iona Taylor, Town Clerk politely asking them to update their website. We will report in the next issue whether they have done so. We wait to see if they explain how this can happen and who is responsible. This is more proof of low standards at this Town Council and proof that Wetherby Councillors (like Cllr Norma Harrington, who claims to take an interest in buses) do not monitor the contents of their own website. Wetherby Deserves Better.

Last year we had to point out the errors misleading visitors and residents about the only public transport in town - buses. Proof they don't care about buses or checking that website information is updated. Their solution - remove ALL bus info!

## Still No Newsletter after 2 years

We pay for a Comms Officer whose job is clearly not to communicate with the *Free Press* or those offline. Otley has had an excellent newsletter for years. Our Town Council cannot manage a simple high quality leaflet, see page 5. Otley also has an Annual Show but our Town Councillors are not interested in reviving ours. Mayor Connor Mulhall (Con) ignored our recent email about it.



## Only 1 Hard Copy for Public to Read!

Proof if any more were needed that this Council wants to keep basic information from tax-payers

In every issue of WFP we highlight many other cases of low standards and how our reasonable questions remain unanswered

Result in Wetherby West Last Time.  
Proof this Town Council is Political

Sir Alec Shelbrooke for... 09/02/2024  
Congratulations to Councillor Elaine Smith on winning the WETHERBY WEST WARD BY-ELECTION.

Con. 46%  
Grn. 36%  
Lib. 16%  
Ind. 2%

Labour didn't bother standing, they have no interest in Wetherby & Easingwold.



## Local Businessman Complains - Tender £2000 cheaper than winning tender. Appeal of complaint rejected.

The minutes of an Appeals meeting in Sept below are very concerning. The accusations are serious, particularly the claim that he was not given a reason why he wasn't awarded the contract. It sounds like he'd had enough and left the meeting. If he wants to get in touch with us to tell us why, please do so. If unhappy with the conduct of the Town Council or Councillors, he should email councillorconduct@leeds.gov.uk. We say 'well done' to him for sticking up for himself - not easy in this town.

4. **Complaint in respect of the tender process for the replacement of the railings at Garden of Rest.**  
The Town Clerk gave a brief update on the process so far. Members of the appeals committee were updated of the complaint and the decision made by the complaints committee.

The complainant was given the time to outline and explain his concerns to the committee members, some of which were:

- The complainant believes that the tender process was not carried out correctly, the complainant expected a format that allowed a points system to be utilised for marking the tender thoroughly which would advise which areas didn't meet the specification adequately.
- Their tender came in £ 2000 cheaper than the awarded business. As a Wetherby resident and business, they had hoped that you would be awarded the contract.
- Claimant stated that he did not receive a response as to why he wasn't awarded the contract.
- Claimant asked how the Council deemed the decision as best value process.

Members of the committee addressed the above matters with the complainant with due consideration. Explanations were given as to how the tender process was carried out and that all businesses who tendered were given the same specification/information. The contract was awarded to the business that fully complied with the specification, as outlined at the complaints committee meeting.

**The complainant left the meeting at this point.**

The committee discussed the appeal to the decisions made and concerns in great depth. It was **RESOLVED**

The Council say they discussed this case 'in great depth' but unusually the Town Clerk did not minute when the meeting ended so we have no clue as to how long it lasted. *Poor minuting yet again.*



## Town Council Mtgs - Usual Poor Minuting & Lack of Info

### **Markets Ctte Chair Cllr Bradley - Aug. It lasted 50 mins.**

Nobody from *Wetherby Business Association* attended. The Comms & Events Officer was not named. Why not? Unnecessary secrecy again from this Council. Her name is Helena Briden (you may see her name in local papers writing articles as a 'contributor').

**Participation in 6 Weeks of Summer Event.** Wk 1: 60 participants • Wk 2: 40 • Wk 3: 25 • Wk 4: 50 • Wk 5: 40 • Wk 6: 60.

We calculated that is a total of 275 people.

These figures were discussed but nothing minuted to say if they were good, bad, acceptable, disappointing or not. *Why no opinion? If they were poor, no suggestions were made to improve things for next year.*

### **Welcome to Wetherby Ctte - Sept. Chair ? Not Stated yet again. It is Cllr Dean Buckle, see page 5**

The last meeting apparently lasted nearly 3 hours. Clearly a minuting error, as this one lasted 45 mins. Nobody from *Wetherby Business Association* attended.

This Council organises only 2 Events (responsibility of the Comms & Events Officer). **One is Bonfire Night.** Six food



*Would help if they told us the day! (Saturday)  
Poor position on a roundabout*

vendors attended this years. Sports Association's "licencing may not be up-to-date". Social Media Insights are described in detail. *The 1000s of people who do not follow the*

*Council or social media are not mentioned ie the vast majority of residents are ignored. Still no newsletter.*

### **Budget & Governance Ctte - Sept. Chair Cllr Newcombe**

Cancelled Meeting. Thanks to Cllr Mulhall (Mayor) & Payne (ex-Mayor) not turning up, this meeting was inquorate.

**TOWN COUNCIL FULL MEETING - Sept. The usual 'Chair' was mentioned but not named, as usual. This is ridiculous. Why won't they name the Chair?** Meeting lasted only 34 minutes. 2 / 14 Cllrs did not attend (Cllr Mulhall - Mayor & Cllr Payne).

**Flags on lamp-posts is 'vandalism'** says Leeds City Council and should be reported.

**BMX Track 'expected to be completed by 18 Sept'. It wasn't.** And still isn't on 7 November, 7 weeks later. £11,000 given by

**Still Not Finished - Started in Spring**  
Still No Info On Site - simple laminate would do



*Why &  
Who is  
Responsible?*

*responsibility, as usual. Poor communication from all involved.*

**FOI request - 'extensive and almost exceeded the appropriate cost limit'. Any similar ones 'would be refused'. Who decided this?**

*We already know this Town Council keeps important information from us and they have now decided that they will refuse FOI applications BEFORE they know what they are about. This is incredible in a democracy. Just like their 'malicious complaints' policy, Cllr Harrington and her colleagues are doing everything to deter us from asking reasonable and legitimate questions.*

*We can assure readers it would not be appropriate to raise our issues at any meeting. The 10 minutes allowed would not suffice and Cllrs would shut us down immediately because of the subject matter.*

**Welcome to Wetherby - NOTHING DISCUSSED.** No doubt because they are doing an 'excellent job'. See page 5

**August Crime Figures.** Meaningless, no comparisons made to previous months or years, no proper analysis.

**Anti-Social Behaviour at Sandringham Park** There were 2 incidents of indecent exposure reported.

**This full council meeting lasted only 34 minutes.** *Proof if any were needed that Councillors do not have much interest in the issues raised in meetings they are not a member of. Very little discussion and few questions in 34 minutes. This is why so many mistakes and inconsistencies are not noticed. Or perhaps they are but nobody dare mention them.*

### **Planning Ctte - Sept. Chair not identified. It is Cllr Payne.**

No councillor or staff noticed or cared that Cllr Payne was both present and absent at the last meeting, as we pointed out in last Issue. They still approved the minutes. This meeting lasted only 23 minutes.



**Town Hall Management Ctte - Sept. Chair Cllr Moss.** Lasted 40 mins.

**Replacement of lift would cost £55,000.** A highly qualified expert in these matters has told us: "They don't require a new lift, it is only 10 - 15 years old and is hardly used, a good maintenance company would be able to ensure this would not be required. Do the Council's Facilities team have enough knowledge to ask for 2nd or 3rd opinions on this?"

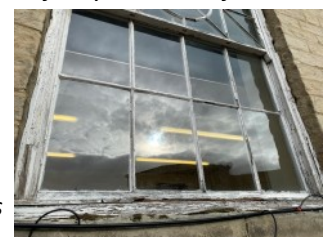


**New fire extinguishers to cost about £1000.** They don't say how many they need.



**Plug sockets 'may be being overloaded'. Either they are or they aren't. If they are, it is a fire risk!**

**Windows replacement.** Will cost us £1000s. *Our Town Hall is a massive drain on our resources. Is it time to move out and sell it? Working Group has been formed. Will it discuss that option?*





# Local Business Upset with *Wetherby Town Council*

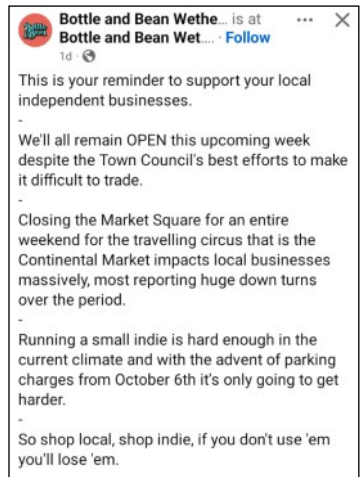


Public criticism of the *Town Council* in writing is rare outside these pages. So we must take seriously the concerns of one local business that dares to speak out.

The owner of the Bottle & Bean, a coffee and ale establishment on Church Street, says the Council is making it 'difficult to trade' because of the weekend Continental Market.

They are unhappy at the Market Square being closed for an entire weekend. Most local businesses, the owner claims, report 'huge downturns over the period'.

They start and end their post on social media, right, with a 'use it or lose it' message. Many small businesses have left the town in recent times, and large ones too eg banks.



Cllr Paul Bradley  
Chair of Markets Cttee

We checked the website of the *Wetherby Business Association* but there was nothing about this issue. There was nothing on their Facebook page either.

We asked Chair of the *Markets Cttee*, Cllr Paul Bradley (Con) for comment. He did not respond.

*We wholeheartedly support all local businesses and hope they will all find their voices on issues like this. It's usually only when their shops have closed that they speak out.*

*Which is a bit too late.*



## Wetherby Foodbank

**NEW!** **WETHERBY COMMUNITY CAFE & ADVICE HUB** **NEW!**

St James's Church Rooms, Church Street LS22 6LP  
Fridays 10am - 12 noon

A warm and welcoming space for everyone



Free refreshments  
Children welcome

Different advice services available each week



**Shopping in Morrisons?**  
Look out for their new Foodbank Donation Tokens in the display near the entrance. If you'd like to donate, you can choose a £1, £3 or £5 token, pop it in your basket and scan it along with your shopping at the checkout. Morrisons will pass the donation on to us and also kindly add a further 10%.



**Lunchtime Concert**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November, at 1pm



**John Mark Rose**

plays Franz Schubert, Lennox Berkeley, Frédéric Chopin and other well-known composers

TICKETS £6

Light lunches served from 12 noon

ENQUIRIES: 0113 268 2041

**Lunchtime Concert**  
as part of our Christmas Tree Festival

to be held on  
**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, at 1pm**



**The West Riding Concertina Ensemble**  
with a programme of Christmas music

TICKETS £6

Light lunches served from 12 noon

ENQUIRIES: 0113 268 2041



# SOUNDS OF THE SIXTIES

LIVE ON STAGE TRIBUTES TO TO THE MUSIC OF

## ELVIS

## ROY ORBISON

## BILLY FURY

## THE BEATLES

## CHUCK BERRY

...PLUS MANY MORE!

### WETHERBY TOWN HALL

SAT 6TH DECEMBER 7PM

TICKETS FROM TICKET SOURCE

OR 07990073574 / 01757700042

THE Market Place, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS22 6NE

# BIG SEXY FRIDAYS

LAUNCHES 4PM  
OCTOBER 31ST

QUIZ, BINGO & KARAOKE

DRINKS FROM £3.50

FREE BEER!!!!  
PINT WITH EVERY PIZZA BOUGHT.

THE ROYAL OAK, WETHERBY

#### Poor Website Contents of *Wetherby Business Assoc.*

The website of the *Wetherby Business Association (WBA)* has this, right, as its ONLY item of news in the 'News' section.

You would think they would get it 100% right.

- 1 Blurred image.
- 2 "XMas"
- 3 "Saturday 29th". No month stated.
- 4 "kampungbet ..... Nonsense.

What sort of image does this give to outsiders who may want to invest in the town?

In addition, the website [www.wetherbybusinessassociation.co.uk/](http://www.wetherbybusinessassociation.co.uk/) has no basic information about:

- ♦ Who runs this limited company, its directors etc. *Companies House says it is still Jamie Hullah with 2 other Officers.*
- ♦ The set up, who does what, any regular meetings
- ♦ The number of members it has
- ♦ **Finances, how much is spent on what**

They have no email address.

Compare it to Otley's *Business Improvement District (BID)* website [www.otleybid.co.uk/](http://www.otleybid.co.uk/). The difference is staggering.

The *WBA* website says they have an 'excellent relationship' with *Wetherby Town Council* yet do not have a single representative on the *Markets Cttee* or *Welcome to Wetherby Cttee* (or any committee). If you're a member (£75 cost), pls tell us what you think.

#### RECENT ARTICLES



XMas Lights Switch-on 2025

The XMas Lights Switch-on this year will be on Saturday 29th. Full details will follow. kampungbet kampungbet toto slot gacor hari ini

Screenshot taken on 28 October 2025



#### ANOTHER WONDERFUL YEAR!

Highlights? The biggest ever crowd at **Leeds Symphony Orchestra**? Four sold out (or almost) films at **Wetherby Cinema**? Were you there? People drinking the bar dry at **Blues Night** and **Comedy** (and getting close at The Engine Shed)? A sell-out Jake Thackray performance? Or maybe our new **Landscape Painter Competition** or the second year of our **Comedy Poetry** competition which had 250 entries and a live reading night at Wetherby Brew? Or the wonderful **Crumbs presented by Bad Apple**? Or... it's tricky!





## Rugby League Ashes Test Lost

It's been an astonishing 22 years since England played Australia in a 3-game series for the Ashes.

The event started in 1908 when the Aussies played a team from Great Britain. There are no actual ashes to play for, unlike in cricket. Out of the 39 series, Australia are just one win ahead. But in recent decades the boys from down under are a dominant force.



The Man of the Moment - Aussie Reece Walsh

**Game 1 took place at a well-attended Wembley stadium.** The team in green were only 8-0 up at half time but English chances were wasted and too many errors meant it was a comfortable 26-6 victory in the end. England fans were grateful for a well-worked try before the end.

**A crowd of over 50,000 at Everton's new football stadium** saw the second match. With both teams giving 100% it was not long before tempers flared and there were 2 scuffles within the first 5 minutes. A tight first half saw no tries but 2 penalty scores each ie 4-4. But soon after the break the Aussies scored 2 fairly straight-forward tries and England were chasing the game. Poor decision-making and mistakes resulted in no more points for our boys, losing the game 4-14 and the series. **Let's hope for a consolation victory** at Headingley at the final encounter on Sat 8 Nov. If you haven't got tickets, watch it in comfort live on BBC1 at 2.30 - one of the few things worth watching on the channel nowadays.

## Gulls beat Whites / Blacks



Brighton is one of those teams along with Bournemouth, who should not have a regular place in the Premier League, when there are far bigger

Yorkshire clubs like Leeds and the 2 Sheffield teams in existence. Yet those two South Coast teams can find the



Brighton were a deserved 3-0 up with their first goal in the 11th minute.

**Not a great day at the office and it left Leeds in 16th place.** Daniel Farke German manager, is now under a lot of pressure as Leeds have failed to score in half of their games so far. Replacement rumours have started.

players and management to compete there year after year. So they deserve it. Why can't any Yorkshire team do the same?

**Leeds travelled down south to face the Brighton** but it wasn't seaside weather. They contended with pouring rain with United playing in an all-black strip. The Seagulls were buzzing and picked off Leeds bag of chips without too much trouble. In fact the only United chance that the TV showed in the highlights was in the 85th minute when they hit the post. By then

### Results & Fixtures

Burnley 2 - 0 Utd

Utd 2 - 0 West Ham

Brighton 3 - 0 Utd

Notts Forest v Utd on Sun 9 Nov at 2pm

Utd v Aston Villa on Sun 23 Nov at 2pm

Man City v Utd on Sat 29 Nov at 3pm

Utd v Chelsea on Wed 3 Dec at 8.15pm



# Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

## News, Funny Stuff & Improving Accountability

## Your Not-for-Profit Community Newsletter

[www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press](http://www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press)

Editor: Paul Kirby Email: [WetherbyFreePress@PM.me](mailto:WetherbyFreePress@PM.me)

Tel: 07840 862861 Twitter/X: @wbyfreepress

**Please Donate Online to Cover Printing Costs**

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**

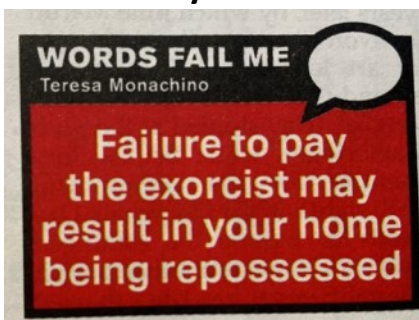
*Unjustifiable threats of legal action can be seen as harassment.*

*The Editor has had 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 Listen to Both Sides*

## More Funny Stuff



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