

Cancelled by Wetherby Grumbler - No Explanation, no Redress

We thought the actions of Wetherby Grumbler Facebook Group admin described in the last issue was a one-off. It wasn't. They have stopped our posts promoting the town's only free, general, not-for-profit newsletter. We have been promoting the WFP for over a year and a half with no problem. So why now?

Initially, the only reason was they've had 'a lot of complaints'. Nothing specific. Grumbler has 27,000 members; how many complaints were there? No answer. Then they eventually said there is a 'tone of aggression' in our posts. This is not true and not a single example was put forward.

We think Grumbler admin (one a resident, one not) have given in to mob rule. Some people in this town do not want you to be informed of embarrassing facts or see any criticism. They do not argue their point in posts online or in these pages - they do it behind the scenes. This is behaviour by people who want to

FACTS: The Editor has not broken any Facebook rule. He has never posted anything offensive, libellous or inappropriate.

We are very careful, as we could be sued if we publish anything untrue, not in the public interest or that is not honest opinion.

Nobody has even threatened to sue us.

We politely ask Group admin to reconsider your decision, or provide detailed reasons, with examples, for it. strangle free speech.

We can only hope the admin ladies were not threatened in any way by these complainers. They say they weren't. But they are clearly afraid their Group may be taken away from them. We asked them why Facebook would remove the



from them. We asked them why Facebook would remove them as admin, when they (and us) have done nothing wrong. No response.

The lengths these complainers go to in order to stop us shows how desperate they are. Why are they so scared of free speech? We can only speculate.

You may not care about this and say it's their group, they can do what they want. We say that if they can do this to us, they can do it to you. This group is influential - councillors read posts and sometimes respond to issues. The Group admin therefore wield a great deal of power, especially when they can ban people and delete posts.

See page 9 for more



Tory Blunder - No Apology

When Linda Richards was a Leeds City Councillor (Conservative) she set up Wetherby and Villages Clean River Group. She used the Group's



Twitter account to promote the Conservative Party by retweeting a tweet by MP Alec Shelbrooke and an anti-Labour tweet by a Councillor colleague, see left. Mrs Richards also tweeted about dogs. None of these tweets had anything to do with the pollution of our river with raw sewage.

We asked Mrs Richards for comment and an apology. She said 'the retweets reflect human error of mixing up accounts' but offered no apology.

Not a single member of the Group or Conservative colleague of Mrs Richards noticed these Tweets at the time in 2022. *cont'd on Page 7*

We Are Not-For-Profit - WFP is Purely a Community Enterprise

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



"It was AGREED to cease the practice of providing a list of general items of correspondence as it does not capture all items received. Instead the clerk will table items on the agenda as required." We believe this action is purely to stop the Free Press ever being mentioned in the meeting minutes. It is disgraceful and another example of cancel culture. We hope the new Councillors will take this up with the Town Clerk.

New Larger Bins at Ings Coming

The Town Council do not want to take over responsibility of the Shambles toilets. The state of them is often criticised. Minutes of another meeting says the appointment of a Comms & Events Officer was not possible. Why no reason provided? And this means more of our money spent on recruitment, doesn't it? Why was that not mentioned either?

Climate Emergency Meeting Minutes - No mention of buses, yet again.

James Hullah, Wetherby Business Association, finally attended a Welcome to Wetherby meeting. The King's Coronation made a loss. Despite this it was claimed it was a 'success'. No figure stated - how much money was lost? No attendance figures to back up their claim of 'success'. No mention of consulting with residents before such an event next time.

A Visitors Leaflet is still being done. How long does it take to do such a simple thing? It should have been ready for Easter.

Our comments above show that this Council is still far from being open and transparent. Large lack of detail in minutes. And they ignored our email asking about the issues we raised in the last edition, and the one before that.

WFP is non-political

More Proof of Readership

In the last issue on page 7 we highlighted Mike Bosomworth's incredible efforts to raise money for brain disorders. He wrote to us:

"Many thanks for publishing my article. I have had a few more donations this weekend, which is almost certainly thanks to you."

If you want to publicise your charity parachute jump or baked bean bath or whatever, please tell us your story.



Mike's Triathalon

.... and the Good We Do

Another reader writes about a recommended walk by bus to Knaresborough: "Your article was inspirational and informative. I didn't know you could walk all the way along the river in the way you have described and the Watermill Cafe looks like a hidden gem.

I will add this walk to my list and hope to do it in the near future although its not easy getting to Knaresborough on a local bus anymore."

Thank you to both readers - it's feedback like this that keeps us going.

It's YOUR newsletter so please tell us your favourite walks (by bus) or anything else you want to share.

'Good News' about 5G Mast, says Cllr Stables

Our new Leeds City Councillor Penny Stables (Green Party) sent us this.

"The 15m high 5G telecoms mast that had been proposed has been rejected by Planning. I have been assisting residents with this objection and I am delighted that the site at the corner of Wentworth Gate and Spofforth Hill has been rejected.

Although we do need new 5G telecoms masts to get better coverage, they need to be thoughtfully placed in locations that do not impact local residents. In this case it was proposed to be directly outside the main window of a residential property, so that every time they looked out of their window they would see the 15 metre mast.

The associated cabinets would also impede those waiting for the bus, or trying to pass by in a wheelchair, mobility scooter or with pushchairs."



Thorp Arch

Summer Craft Market



Boston Spa, Wetherby & Villages Community Green Group

BOSTON SPA FESTIVAL Sat 15 & Sun 16 July

Our stand will be outside *Costcutter* on Saturday from 10 'til 1pm - please come and see us.

We'll also be at the *Party in the Park* on Sunday from 1 'til 5pm, where we'll be running a series of children's activities, like tin can alley, bug hunt, leaf bingo, colouring and a tombola. Great fun - we look forward to seeing you there!

If you are able to lend us a hand running some of these activities on our stand for an hour on Sunday between 11am and 5pm, it would be really appreciated. Please get in touch with Adrian at recycle@bostongreengroup.co.uk.



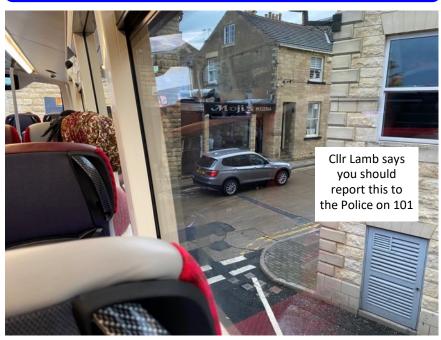
Wetherby Free Press

3

Citizen Journalism At Its Best

TRANSPORT NEWS

Bus Station Exit Still Being Blocked - WHY has Nothing Been Done?



The WFP and many on social media have been complaining about this for OVER A YEAR. The image above was taken on a recent Friday evening.

It is quite unbelievable that nothing has been done in that time. Literally nothing. Not even the lines re-painted.



WYCA are responsible for the bus station and Leeds City Council Highways for the road where vehicles park. Cllr Lamb is a Leeds City Councillor (Conservative) and also now a member of the Metro / WYCA board.

We asked him why no progress has been made. He responded for the first time in writing. He said "I've raised the bus station issues on multiple occasions and will continue to do so. It's really important that residents report instances to the police and, if safe and comfortable to do so, take video footage. I accept that it's not realistic that the police will come with blue lights but the volume of reporting will make the issue a priority and assist me in getting further action taken. Ad hoc reports and complaints are of no value as evidence if they aren't formally reported."

We replied and asked who he raised it with, how many times in the past year and why he did not blind copy us in, if they were emails.

We also asked him if he was seriously suggesting that passengers should call the Police on 101? Would the Police really want their phone lines clogged up with this. Why don't the bus drivers or companies report it on our behalf? Cllr Harrington could raise it with the Police & Transdev in her meetings with both organisations.

This has gone on long enough. It is Time for Proper Action!

4

Cost of Unleaded Correct on Thurs 13 July to nearest p Shell £1.50 Morrisons £1.48 the same as 3 weeks ago Tesco Seacroft £1.39

Diff b/w Shell & Tesco to fill av tank is $\pounds 6$





OUR VIEW

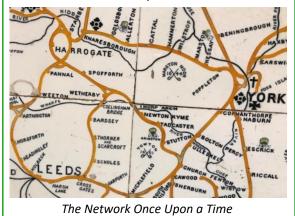
Great in theory but not worth wasting time on

It will never happen. The cost would be prohibitive.

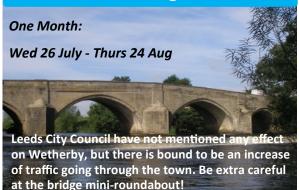
Better to put your energy into improving bus services & infrastructure instead

This topic comes up every so often. We covered it on Page 3 of Issue 14

This was the only piece of 'news' in this week's £2 so-called Wetherby News



Harewood Bridge Closure



Tell us your Bus Experiences

Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Wetherby Festival Update

The 45th Wetherby Festival starts on Friday 29th September and runs until 8th October. Tickets are already on sale and some events are selling out fast!!

The Festival used to be called the Wetherby Arts Festival. This year they will live up to this name with a three day Art Exhibition at The Town Hall from Friday 29th until Sunday 31st September AND IT'S FREE!



The exhibition features 3 local artists (Ailsa Read, Rachel McNaughton and Clare Dean) who work in acrylic, watercolour and mixed media. All three artists will be present and demonstrating their work during the event in the Deighton Room. We will also be welcoming back an exhibition of 'Felt Art'

FESTIVA

Clare Dean, Clare's Creations

from Kazakhstan; created by Gauhar Bisengalieva. The full event schedule, together with the usual ticket-buying facility, is available at wetherbyfestival.co.uk and they will be RAOB A ONE LODGE WETHERBY

COMMUNITY FUND

Supporting Local Good Causes

SUMMER COFFEE MORNING

Thursday 27th July

Wetherby Town Hall 9am To 1 30pm

REFRESHMENTS, CAKES, BISCUITS, TOMBOLA, BRIC A BRAC, WOODEN ITEMS SALE AND LOTS MORE

opening the Box Office at the Town Hall in September for those of you who prefer physical tickets.

Don't forget, the Festival is run totally by volunteers, so if you'd like to help, please get in touch with them.

Praise for Councillors

A Reader who has been highly critical of our Councillors recently wanted to redress the balance with this message & image. "There is a beautiful, shiny new bench in the Garden of Rest to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Thank you to Councillors Alan Lamb, Norma Harrington and Linda Richards for securing funding."

We are pleased to publish this positive news. We publish what you send us. We can't publish what you don't send us. Our critics call us biased and negative. They, and others, do not send us unbiased and positive items, like this. So we can't win, can we?









Citizen Journalism At Its Best





Firstly I would like to congratulate you on your publication.

As I was picking up a copy in Morrisons, a pompous individual told me it was full of rubbish! I asked him if he had read it, he said no. So I asked him why would he say that? The only reply he gave was 'just look at it'. I have heard other people rubbishing your Press, coincidently all politically biased to the right. I feel that due to some of the content of the WFP, quite rightly, criticising our 'non political council', these pompous individuals assume that your are a 'communist' rag. (*Marxist too, Ed*)

Free Press 'full of rubbish'

I have attended council meetings and I have to agree with an article in WFP regarding the annual council meeting. I didn't attend, however my experience was exactly the same at a meeting that I did attend. It was an experience that I would recommend to every Wetherby resident. You will experience how wisely the increased precept is being spent, you will witness the procedure of

Mtg Chair 'spoken over'

'propose, second, carried' at lightening speed. You will witness how the chair is corrected and spoken over by certain councillors, who give the impression that they are the unofficial leaders of the WTC.

If there is nothing of interest on the agenda, you're not obliged to stay for the full meeting.

The reason Penny Stables won is quite simple, as you have explained in your paper. People are fed up with the 'same old'. Now what we need is no political bias, let the council show itself for what is. People need to go to the council meetings. They need to understand how these people

'They must be
held
accountable'

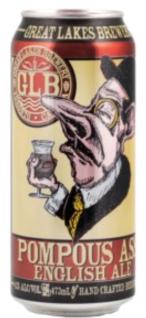
represent our views and what is important to Wetherby residents. The council take instruction from the people and have a duty to keep us informed. They must be held accountable for their actions. They need to give the people what they want for their community, not what the councillors 'think' that we want. **Please help to get people along to meetings to see for themselves.** If there is

nothing of interest on the agenda, you're not obliged to stay for the full meeting.

Editor says:

We hope the 'pompous' individual and people with similar views will write to us and say why exactly they think the newsletter is 'rubbish' - detail and examples, please. Anonymously, if you wish. We are the only show in town so let's improve it together.

Town Council meetings only allow 15 mins at the start of the mtg for the public to raise their issues. We hope more residents will go along to meetings and get involved, though we fully understand why people are put off.



A Canadian Beer

Send Your News, Views & Events to: 6 WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Local Democracy Page **Our MP Alec Shelbrooke**

Alec Shelbrooke has been our Conservative MP for 13 years since May 2010.

In 2019 he won 58% of our vote beating Labour by over 17,000 votes. He was a Remainer.

UPDATE - From Dec '19 to 21 June 2023 he has voted 640 times out of 817 (78%)

In that time he has rebelled twice against the party whip. Source - www.publicwhip.org.uk/

He refused to inform his constituents whether or not he supported Boris Johnson in the party's No-Confidence Vote.

Alec was a strong supporter of Liz Truss in the Leadership Battle.

As PM Liz Truss promoted him to an MoD Ministerial post in Sep '22, which he then quit / was sacked after 49 days, the same length of time his boss lasted in post.

UPDATE - On 19 June 2023 Alec voted for the Privileges Committee report which stated that Boris Johnson repeatedly misled parliament ie knowingly lied about parties in Downing Street whilst the rest of us were following the rules. Source - www.theyworkforyou.com/

t] Rt Hon. Alec Shelbrooke MP Retweeted

12 July 23 Liz Truss 🔣 @trussliz · 1h How to increase GDP per capita is a core challenge for the UK and others. Alec still a big fan of Liz Truss.

No Tweets at all in June.

Space for Alec to Say Anything to Constituents

Nothing received since we began in Sep 21

(Unedited, max 400 words)

alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk

Tory Blunder - Parish Council Refuses to Condemn Tweets (other is silent)

Cont'd from front page. These tweets have been in the public domain for over 9 months. Cllr Alan Lamb said the retweets 'shouldn't have been made', that they were 'unintentional' and that they will be removed. Cllr Lamb did not apologise on her behalf or the Conservative party's

behalf. The Wetherby & Villages Clean River Group have 3 Councils as members - Wetherby, Boston Spa & Thorp Arch Councils.

We wrote to the two Parish Councils and asked:

twitter

"Please could you inform us whether you approve of these Tweets, and if not, what action you will be taking.

Could you also inform us whether any public money has been given to this group, and if so how much."

The Clerk of Boston Spa PC, Deborah Marshall, referred us to minutes of meetings regarding the funding. As for the main question, she said "Any other issues should be directed to the Clean Rivers Group email". Chairman Keith Blake said the Group 'has issued an apology', which is untrue. Mrs Richards in 2 emails made

no apology. He added 'the matter is closed'. Thorp Arch PC has not responded.

We also asked Mark Barrow, underwater cameraman and supporter of Mrs Richards' work, whether he thought politicians were using this important issue for their own ends. He did not respond.



It is the way of the world now, sadly. You get caught out making a mistake / error of judgement, but don't say 'sorry'. This makes it worse.

We all make mistakes, no one is perfect. One wrong retweet may be a mistake, but two looks very careless. If Mrs Richards had admitted to us it was entirely her fault and apologised, it would not be such a big deal and not have made the front page.

Boston Spa Parish Council Chairman Keith Blake says that Parish Councils (PC) are not political. His terse response shows to us that the opposite is true - no apology, nothing to see here, move along now. Refusing to condemn or make any comment about Mrs Richard's actions is strange behaviour. It is astonishing to us that not a single member of this Group or Conservative colleague noticed these mistakes/errors of judgement. We notice, like Wetherby Town Council, Boston Spa do not state the political party of the councillors on their website. Why are they hiding this basic piece of information? Draw your own conclusion.

Sadly, our national leaders have set a terrible example in recent years. Boris Johnson is just one of many cases. In his case, his friends and colleagues denied, or tried to minimise, poor behaviour.

These supporters, like Jacob Rees-Mogg and Nadine Dorries try to shoot the competent, respected and impartial messenger (as the Free Press knows only too well) - in Johnson's case it was the Privileges Committee.

Equally bad is to say nothing. Don't we have a right to know what others involved, like our MPs, are thinking on these important issues? And our moral guardians, local church leaders, why don't they ever speak out? Vested interest, perhaps.

Those who do the right thing after they have done the wrong thing should remember that they gain at least some respect from doing so It seems to us, in this case and others, party politics comes before common sense.

More on this Group in next Issue



Facebook



WFP favours no political party - we aim to make 7 those in authority accountable whoever they are

Drovers Day 'A Great Success'

Paul Hutchinson gives us his view of the day on Sat 1 July.

All images are credited to him.

"The first Wetherby *Drover's Day* was a great success. The event was launched by Kazia Knight at 1pm in the Market Square. There were stalls, an indoor market in the Town Hall, live music, lectures, and for the most part, sunshine.

StreetLife played an acoustic set featuring a song about The Drovers and *The Strolling Bones* brought the afternoon to a great climax with their own brand of Rock and Roll.



StreetLife



At 4pm, the main event commenced - the brass band marching competition.

Bands marched from Bank Street, past the Horsefair centre and down to the bandstand where each band played two pieces and were adjudicated on their prowess. The worthy winners were the *Fishburn Band* who impressed everyone that heard them.

In fairness, all of the competitors acquitted themselves admirably and will hopefully have another opportunity to win top spot in subsequent years."



See next page for a different view of the day and its promotion

Send Your News, Views & Events to: 8 WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Cancelled by Wetherby Grumbler - No Explanation, no Redress

Cont'd from front page. With power comes responsibility. Facebook admin must have fair and just processes in place. They have not responded properly to reasonable questions or let us defend ourselves publicly in any way. They are not being accountable.

Questions for Admin:

- Why don't you send us the complaints (anonymously) and we will respond to each and every one of them?
- Why don't you ask members' views on this important issue?
- Why aren't the rules stated clearly on the opening page?
- Why were the same posts on Nextdoor and Boston Spa Grumbler approved?
- Why did you not publish our complaint about your behaviour on this matter?

It's the crazy world we live in Folks, but it seems you are not allowed to Grumble on a site called Wetherby Grumbler.



Perfect Example of Why We Need a Newsletter & **Cannot Rely on Social Media for Info & News**

We were surprised to see on social media people complain about not knowing about the recent Drover's Day events.

It featured twice in your favourite (and least favourite) newsletter. It was promoted physically all around town with notices - see picture.

And it was promoted heavily in the very same social media group where the complaint was raised. There were many posts about it on Wetherby Grumbler. Yet many say they knew nothing about it.

That is because all those posts were **drowned out by the hundreds** of other posts on there every week. You would have to be a sad individual to read every single post in the Group.



Message gets Lost in the Crowd

Some use us, some don't. Why they wouldn't want free publicity is beyond us, petty bias we think. They cut off their nose to spite their face.

Some pretend not to know we exist. They clearly are not in touch with the community they are part of, if that is the case. Back to the problems of Facebook Groups. Admin often allow posts raising exactly the same issue. So you have 2 posts asking the same question or raising the same point. That is frustrating, and again it decreases the importance of your contribution. Ironically, this happened with the Drovers Day Event. See images of two posts, right.

No dilution or repetition in a newsletter.



Anonymous member July 2 at 1:47 PM · 😁

What did everyone think about the Wetherby Drovers marching contest in town yesterday? I took part in one of the bands and was very aware of how dead town was in the afternoon.

As great an idea the event is, is it going to have a negative impact?



Michael Davisor July 3 at 1:08 PM · @

So many people are saying they didn't know about the 'Drovers' Day and Marching Bands Contest Event on Saturday. I placed this comment in the discussion but I think it is worth repeating in its own right:-

Wetherby has always been a challenge to event organisers as people seem to relish not to seek out information which is in front of their eves then complain that they didn't know about the event. Can those people please tell organisers what method of advertising they need. On second thoughts, they'll probably claim they never saw this appeal. € 24

55 comments

95 comments

Drovers Day - A Different View to Page 8

knows where to go for information.

That used to be the Wetherby News when they had an office and staff in the town. There is

only WFP in residence now.

Comment from social media:

* I took part in one of the bands and was very aware of how dead town was in the afternoon * I feel for the local businesses who would inevitably lose business if events are held on what is historically the best trading day of the week * I read about it on FB, but if you don't have it !!! I didn't notice posters in the shop windows!!! * this town is simply awful at promoting itself and any event * I was there in a volunteer capacity, but would agree we need to consider a different advertising strategy for the next event. Quite a few neighbours had no idea it was on * I literally did not see one advertisement for this event!

9

Wetherby Free Press

Citizen Journalism At Its Best



New Manager Daniel Farke is a 46-year-old German who was sacked by his last team

Borussia Monchengladbach after finishing 10th in the Bundesliga. He achieved promotion to the Premier League twice with Norwich City. And that is the job we all hope he will do with Leeds. He is 46 and on a 4-year deal.



Farke with a Fan

The opening game is at home to Cardiff on Sun 6 Aug at 2.30pm. It will be live on Sky.



Strange Results continue!

It was another weekend full of unlikely Yorkshire victories: bottom club Wakey winning again away at Wigan, and lowly Huddersfield beating the leaders in France.

And Leeds winning streak continued with a narrow victory at Salford Reds by the M62.

A great solo try by Cameron Smith put Leeds ahead and a simple touchdown on the wing by Ash Handley (his 99th in Super League) gave the Rhinos a 4 - 12 lead at half time.

Poor defence let Salford jump into the lead with 2 tries after the break.



With 15 minutes to go all hell broke lose after a scrum when 'one heck of a brawl' broke out, according to the commentator. It involved most of the players but what caused it was not obvious, and not even speculated on in the commentary or the analysis on the BBC Super League show. The BBC website shed no light on this 'mayhem' either. Two penalties gave Leeds a late win, 14 - 16.

It leaves them only one place below the 6 teams who will feature in the Super League Play-offs.

Rhinos v Hull KR on Fri 14 July at 20.00 St Helens v Rhinos on Fri 28 July at 20.00 sky sports

Adverts **50%** of *On Your Doorstep* rates: 1/8 page (size A) - £25 or £80 for 4 issues 1/4 page (size B/C) - £40 or £130 for 4 issues 1/2 page (size D) - £60 or £200 for 4 Sponsorship on front page - £25

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Next Issue 49 - Fri 4 Aug





News, Funny Stuff & Improving Accountability

Editor: *Paul Kirby* Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me Twitter: @wbyfreepress

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

If facts are wrong, we will apologise publicly and correct the error. We quote directly to avoid any misunderstandings. We don't do interviews.

We encourage everyone to write to us with their views, whatever they are. People have died for our Freedom of Expression so never 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:

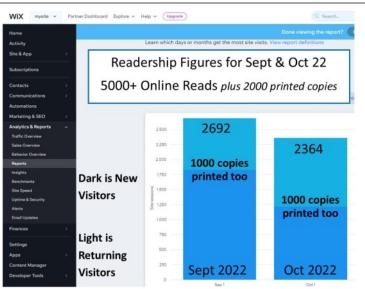
True or **Honest Opinion** or **in the Public Interest** Unjustifiable threats of legal action is bullying behaviour and will not be tolerated.



www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press

Thank Vou to cover printing costs

The British Library at Boston Spa keep copies in their catalogue. The WFP lives forever!



They are surprisingly good figures. The main reason was our exclusive on Wetherspoons buying Sant Angelo. If you don't believe the figures, we can send you a printscreen image.

In 2022 we Supported





Send us your



to WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Let's Make Wetherby Better Together in 2023