



ISSUE 37

until
Fri 10 Feb '23

Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

YOUR Community Newsletter

Contents overleaf



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



Foodbanks Need Help - Donations are Down

The Cost of Living Crisis is biting hard. Many are finding it very difficult to make ends meet with the cost of food higher than ever and the extortionate gas and electricity charges.

January 2023 Foodbank Wish List

- Long life juice
- Squash/Cordial
- Tea & Coffee - small boxes/jars please
- Sugar - small bags please
- Savoury snacks (eg: crisps)
- Sponge puddings
- Tinned fruit
- Cooking oils - small please
- Tinned meats: stew, mince, meatballs, hot dogs
- Tinned potatoes
- Toilet roll
- Deodorant
- Period products

Thank you!

There are reports in the national media that donations have gone down in the new year. A foodbank on the wealthy island of Jersey is concerned about its future after a big drop in donations.

They say they have received only 5 donation bags so far this year instead of the usual 100, a decrease of 95%.

The charity has to buy the food themselves but cannot do that in the long term.

The 'Golden Triangle' we live in is also an affluent area and many can afford to help those less fortunate than themselves.

Wetherby Foodbank are in great need of the items above. Please help if you can. Drop off point in Morrisons.



More Closures

The natives are getting restless. They are looking forward to the famous pub chain opening. But 'Spoons are putting 7 more of their pubs up for sale on top of the 32 announced last year. Could this news put their plans to invest £2.25m and provide 50 - 60 jobs

into doubt? We wrote to our contact at 'Spoons, see P2.



Cllr Maltby Cllr Bennett

No Response from Councillors

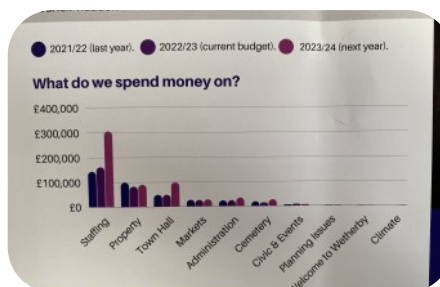
Cllrs Maltby & Bennett

(Conservative) have not taken the opportunity to explain their very low attendance at Town Council meetings last year of 31% and 33% resp. Nor has anyone written to support them. We offered them space on the front page with equal prominence as the original article.

Wetherby Town Council Tax UP by 43%

Full Report in Next Issue.

They have sent a 4 page glossy leaflet to over 16,000 residents trying to explain why we should pay them an extra £46 per year. We question why there is not a clear explanation of the **DOUBLING** of staff costs to £300,000.



Why isn't it split into 2 graphs so we can clearly see all the figures?

The increase seems incredible to us in a cost of living crisis. Tell us what you think.

Contents

Market Decline - Stallholders' Views Page 5

Accountability - MP & Councillors Page 7

TRANSPORT NEWS Pages 3 & 6

New Feature

 Wildlife of Wetherby Page 4

Lidl Plans Withdrawn *for now* Page 5

Progress Report

A1 Sign Campaign Page 4



Utd Play Man U Twice in 5 days! Page 8

If Facts & Free Speech Upsets You, This Newsletter is Not for You



Did you hear about the chameleon who couldn't get aroused? He had a reptile dysfunction.

I wanted to go on a diet, but I feel like I have way too much on my plate right now.

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.



from Front Page - JD Wetherspoon. A spokesman said "Paul, Hi. I have checked this out and at present there are no timescales. Sorry."

So, those of us who are looking forward to the reasonably-priced drinks and friendly atmosphere, that people in those awfully rough places, like Otley, Knaresborough, Garforth, Harrogate, Richmond, Ilkley ... all enjoy, will have to be patient. 😊

Read At www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press



To Online Readers with Printers:

Please Print a Copy (or 3) for our Many Fellow Residents who have No Access to the Internet.

Place them in our Displays in Morrisons Café & Main Entrance.



thanks



It's Very Simple - You Write it, we Print it. It's Your Newsletter.

Cost of Unleaded

Correct on Thurs 26 Jan to nearest penny

Shell £1.57 Morrisons £1.55

Tesco Seacroft £1.45

Difference b/w Shell & Tesco to fill av tank of

55 litres is £6.60



Reporters from Leeds Live have tried and failed TWICE to travel on Britain's Most Scenic Bus Route, the 840 York to Whitby over the North York Moors. The first is quite bizarre, see image on left below. The reporter admits to failing 'miserably' in the simple task of catching a bus! We wonder why anybody would want to read it if she did not achieve what she set out to do. The second time, image right, the reporter caught the WRONG bus. She went to Scarborough along the A64 but still claimed the views were 'incredible'. What!?! The tweet below highlighting this nonsense got over 10,000 views.

Admire the honesty but why publish it?



££ Single Fares £2 until 31 March 33

No report yet from Cllrs Richards, Lamb or Harrington on any meetings with publicly-funded Transport Authority Metro / WYCA. They are the organisation councillors can influence, not bus companies whose primary focus is to make a profit.

DalesBus Leaflets Available

Sundays 8.35 W'by Bus Station

£2 single fare

Free for Pass-holders

from Library & Town Hall

Debbie's Tandem Skydive

"I am fundraising for Bipolar UK to help eliminate stigma about Bipolar. I hope that the money raised will help Bipolar UK continue to give support to people in need and their friends and families. No one should have to cope alone. Bipolar UK is an amazing charity that needs donations to help people. Together we are strong."

Scan this QR code to donate to my JustGiving page

Bipolar UK is the only national charity dedicated to empowering individuals and families affected by bipolar

Tragically, someone living with bipolar is 20 times more likely to take their own life than someone without the condition, with at least 1/20 of all people who take their own life in the UK having a diagnosis of bipolar.

With your support, Bipolar UK will be able to:

- Expand their peer support group provision
- Grow their e-community which provides 24/7 support
- Support more people through our Peer Support Line and email service
- Amplify the voice of people living with bipolar through campaigns, research, and collaborations

SERENADE RADIO

THE BEST IN EASY LISTENING

No ads, it's run by volunteers

Sample Playlist

- Bobby Darin And Johnny Mercer - Two Of A Kind
- Perry Como - It Had To Be You
- The Si Zentner Orchestra - Am I Blue
- Diana Dors - Namely You
- Michael Buble - Come Dance With Me

TRY IT

Ella Fitzgerald

Progress Report

Let's Get Things Moving



Topic	Important	What is Needed	People Responsible
<p>Sign on the A1(M) to Attract Customers to our Businesses</p> <p>Date first raised: Apr 2022</p> <p>In Issues 17, 18, 22 & 27</p>	<p>1 To keep the town alive & prevent more shops, cafes, pubs from closing</p> <p>2 More custom should mean better town facilities eg parking, toilets</p>	<p>Large Signs in Fields Southbound and Northbound, like those seen on M62 & many other motorways.</p> <p>Large Wetherby businesses, like Wetherby Whaler, to fund it. It would pay for itself eventually.</p> <p>Example sign:</p>	<p>Town Councillors & Leeds City Councillors</p> <p>(Cllr Lamb called it a 'good idea, well worth pursuing')</p> <p><i>Wetherby Business Association should have input / coordinate it.</i></p>
			<p>Progress</p> <p>NONE Reported</p>

Topic	People Responsible	Progress
<p>Constant Blocking of Wetherby Bus Station Exit by Vehicles</p> <p>Date first raised: Nov 2021</p>	<p>Leeds City Council Highways Dept</p> <p>3 Wetherby Ward Leeds City Councillors</p>	<p>NONE</p>
<p>WEBSITE of Wetherby Town Council / Welcome to Wetherby</p> <p>www.wetherby.co.uk</p> <p>Date first raised: May 2022</p>	<p>Wetherby Town Clerk</p> <p>15 Conservative Wetherby Town Councillors</p>	<p>NONE</p> <p>Except one new group photo - it was low quality and excluded a quarter of the Town Council</p>

Wildlife of Wetherby

Stunning Bird - The Buzzard

Look up to the skies and you will, more often than not, see one of our striking birds of prey. Red kites with the forked tail are more common around here but the buzzard is the more common raptor nationally.



Photo by
Phill Andrews



Real or Not? Answer in future issue

Wetherby Market Decline / Death - 'Little Bird' who Run it Quit

Little Bird actually resigned last year. Minutes of the main Town Council meeting gave NO reason for this. The Council's Markets' Committee meets only twice a year! The meeting in August 2022 was attended by only 2 councillors and was therefore not quorate ie nothing could be decided. Only Cllrs Bradley & Buckley turned up. Cllr Jo Maltby did not. See Issue 36 for her low attendance rate for meetings.

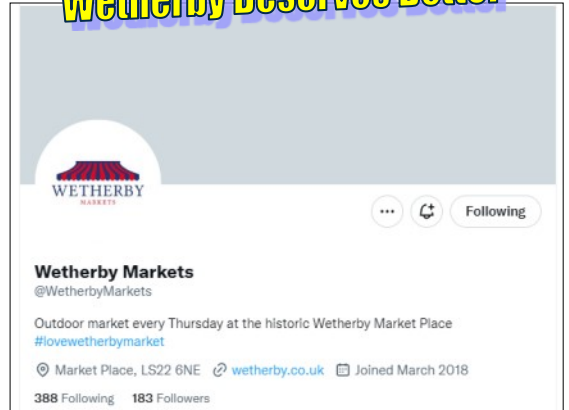
There was a meeting earlier this month and the minutes are not yet available.

Pitiful Use of New Technology

It doesn't inspire you with confidence when Wetherby Town Council / Town Councillors can't manage to find an image for their profile, see right. Their use of 'new' technology is pitiful - see this and previous WFP's about the Town Council website.

We are not sure they should be promoting the market at all when so few stallholders turn up (a total of 4 on 5 Jan). We think they should consider cancelling it for a couple of months.

Wetherby Deserves Better



Instead they post exaggerated tweets about it, saying they 'cannot wait for market day', see left. We asked them how many stalls they expected that week - no answer. In other words they haven't a clue.



Fantasy Reality

The day itself (Thurs 19 Jan) was bright and sunny (and 'not too cold' as a charity collector said). There were a total of 7 stalls selling vacuum parts, fruit & veg, eggs, plants,



clothes & bespoke food x2. It was a sad sight to see, especially the one isolated, see image on right.

We asked the stallholders for their opinions. None of them pretended there is not a problem. One said 'Little Bird' had an officious lady who came round 'laying the law down' last year, and 4 stalls would not put up with such behaviour and will never return. One said the cost of £45 for the stall was more than other markets, which could be as low as £12. Another repeated the obvious that when people come, they will be disappointed and will go elsewhere next time. Otley market was described as being 'much better'.

The charity collectors said they collect half as much as they used to.

The Town Council is burying their head in the sand. We ask again: What plan of action is being taken by the Town Council / Welcome to Wetherby and any other relevant business / town organisation to attract stallholders first, and then shoppers?

Plan For Lidl & Care Facility at Hotel Site Withdrawn for now

The reason for this is to "allow more time to address the outstanding issues raised by planning officers." Otherwise the application would be refused.

Such a refusal by Leeds City Council "comes without requesting any further information or holding any discussion with us on the application's remaining issues. This is disappointing, especially given the high level of community support that the proposals received during the public consultation."

Better Wetherby Partnership Ltd are pleased about this news. They say that "it would have a significant adverse impact on the vitality and viability of Wetherby Town Centre and it would be harmful to the character and appearance of the adjacent Conservation Area."

Lidl and Springfield Healthcare say they remain committed to this site and want to invest in the town.

They thank their supporters and will keep them updated with developments.

If you want to contact their PR firm, call Emily Parkin on 0800 089 0361 or email emily@royalpilgrim.com



Information Event - Energy Workshop
Saturday 28th January
10 - 2
at Wetherby Town Hall

Better Wetherby Partnership Ltd say 'town abandoned'

Better Wetherby (BWPL) say we 'appear to have been abandoned' by a transport report - Mass Transit Vision 2040. It is written by the Mayor Tracy Brabin & West Yorkshire Combined Authority WYCA / Metro, NOT Leeds City Council.

Find it at: www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/masstransitvision

So who are Better Wetherby Partnership Ltd (BWPL)?

- 1 Roger Owen (Chairman)
- 2 Peter Swales
- 3 Alan Lamb (Wetherby Town & Leeds City Councillor, Conservative)
- 4 Norma Harrington (Wetherby Town & Leeds City Councillor, Conservative)

Their website does not state how many supporters/members they have in this 'partnership'. More details about this limited company in future issue.

Summary of BWPL Statement with Our Comments in Italics

- 1 They "express surprise at the almost complete lack of content addressing the Leeds Outer NE area"
- 2 They say that "too little regard is paid to cross border travel in the area" ie H'gate, Tad, K'boro & York

- 3 They want 'consideration' of a Park & Ride (P+R) 'next to Wetherby'

We say: We already have an unofficial P + R where people park in Wilderness car park for free and get the bus. Where will this new Park + Ride be situated? If too far out of town, this will mean a worse service for those without cars. There will be fewer buses from the town centre. Operators will not operate duplicate services. Many Wetherby residents who walk to the bus station (like the Editor) may have to get their car out to drive to the P + R. Why bother? May as well drive all the way to Leeds. We think the obvious place for a Park + Ride is near the Leeds outer ring road by the A58.

- 4 They say such a P + R scheme 'could provide a connection by bus to Garforth rail station'.

We say: That will not work. People will not use 2 forms of public transport just to get to Leeds. The reliability of bus and train is not high enough to attract regular passengers, plus there's frequent traffic hold-ups on the A1/M1. Two or 3 times a year the Editor drives to Garforth station when using the train to get to places further than Leeds. We think there is simply not enough demand to sustain a bus then train service. BWPL did not mention the 174 bus to Garforth, which takes 40 minutes and stops close to the station (5 minute walk). Have BWPL's directors (2 of which are councillors) contacted Arriva Yorkshire to discuss expanding or promoting the service?

- 5 They say "there is no information or stated intention about how the A58, a major commuter route and route to the A1(M) is to be serviced. How are the connections to the major public transport system to be made? How is the near total car dependency of the area to be addressed to meet climate priorities?"

We say: We don't know what they mean by 'serviced', or what the first question means.

- 6 They say "Leeds CC Officers have been asked similar questions and consistently fail to give a proper explanation"

We say: We would be interested to see the responses of Officers. Why have they not asked WYCA/Metro, the Transport Authority, these questions? They are the supposed experts on public transport, not the City Council.

- 7 "Bus stops in Leeds centre have been removed and repositioned on numerous occasions without prior notification"

We say: The Free Press has highlighted this poor service many times. It is the responsibility of WYCA/Metro. We have seen no complaints on social media about these low standards from BWPL or their Councillor directors.

- 8 "The Network map, yet again, barely acknowledges Wetherby, with the type face being so small and so high up on the map in the bus shelters that it is impossible to see/read it."

We say: We agree. Again, clarification should be made who is responsible for this - WYCA/Metro. BWPL do not mention other printed material - pocket timetables and network maps. Both are invaluable for attracting passengers and leisure travellers. No hint of acknowledgement of this, let alone action taken by BWPL on these important issues.

- 9 "The bus companies providing the X98 and X99 service persist in referring to Deighton Bar rather than saying Wetherby. The Bar has long gone and Deighton Road and Deighton Gates school are the only place names with Deighton that exist at the far northern end of Wetherby."

We say: We agree. In Issue 2 of the Free Press we highlighted the incompetence of WYCA/Metro installing new bus stops wrongly, twice, on that estate. No mention of that incompetence and waste of public money by BWPL. Nor do they suggest any improvements to the infrastructure, like more real time displays and bus shelters - there is not a single shelter on the Ainsty Rd / Aire Road estate. The Coop needs one.

- 10 "30,000 residents of Leeds Outer North East, appear to have been abandoned with respect to any meaningful and progressive Public Transport initiatives."

We say: Wetherby will never have a rail connection to Leeds. They haven't even managed a tram from Middleton to congested Headingley. We must therefore focus all our attention on BUSES (there was not a single image of a bus in the Vision 2040 report!). That means pressurising the private bus operators to provide a frequent, reliable, reasonably-priced, comprehensive and comfortable service. And pressuring our councillors (BWPL directors) to get WYCA / Metro to do their job properly.

BWPL seem to be in favour of a Park + Ride service from Wetherby to Leeds. If so, they should put forward clear proposals directly to WYCA or via Leeds City Council, and keep us updated on progress.

It is a shame BWPL did not consult the Editor who has used all the local bus services for over 30 years and been in contact with senior Metro staff and bus company managers for most of that time. Cllrs Lamb & Harrington are on the board so perhaps it's not surprising.



Metro / WYCA attracting leisure passengers!

Local Democracy Pages - Our MP & Councillors

Alec Shelbrooke has been our Conservative MP for 12 years since May 2010. His basic salary is £84K (£2K rise in Apr '22). In the last election in 2019 he won 58% of our vote beating Labour by over 17,000 votes. He was a Remainer. From Dec '19 to May '22 he has voted 467 times out of 560 (83%) and has rebelled once against the party whip (Mar '22). He refused to inform his constituents whether or not he supported Boris Johnson in the No-Confidence Vote. He was a strong supporter of Liz Truss in the Leadership Battle. She promoted him to an MoD Ministerial post in Sep '22, which he then quit / was sacked within 2 months.



Very Old Photo Alec keeps using

Space for Alec

Unedited (max 400 words)

alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk

Nothing received

Useless Stats from Alec. See right.

Firstly Alec says they are for 2023 when they are from the 2021 census. These figures are pretty useless, unless you are a politician. You can align your policies and focus your campaign on the majority. Nobody else can use this information as the area comprises a mixture of many rural villages and populated towns. Figures just for Wetherby would be interesting and useful.



Alec Shelbrooke MP

January 5 at 10:47 AM

What does Elmet & Rothwell look like in 2023?

104,200 people
44,700 households (28% one-person, 27% with children)
96% of people born in the UK (2% in EU, 2% elsewhere)
96% White British (2% Asian, 1% Black, 1% other)
55% Christian (38% no religion, 7% other religion)

The median annual pay of a working age adult is £35,776
1.8% of people are claiming unemployment benefits
The average house price is £246,000
96% of properties connected to Superfast Broadband

13% of Elmet & Rothwell is built up (developed)
75% of Elmet & Rothwell is agricultural

Source: Census 2021/House of Commons Library.



Since 1 Jan Alec has tweeted much more than normal mentioning Wetherby.

He tweets on 21 Jan about **Garforth** benefiting from a part of £41million for 'Levelling Up' with an image of a bus. Where is Wetherby's part of that for our buses, we ask.

Alec has 17,000+ Twitter followers and tweeted more than 250 times his support of Liz Truss in a 2-month period.

We are confused, Alec. You said we should use Facebook instead of Twitter. Yet you are using Twitter more than ever for local issues. Why is this? Are you withdrawing your request for us to use Facebook? We deserve clear information and reasoning from you. We live in hope.



Cllr Linda Richards

Cllr Alan Lamb

Cllr Norma Harrington

linda.richards@leeds.gov.uk

alan.lamb@leeds.gov.uk

norma.harrington@leeds.gov.uk

Space for Cllrs Richards, Lamb & Harrington & 12 Wetherby Town Cllrs

Unedited (max 400 words)

Nothing received

Leeds City Council elections take place on Thurs 4 May 2023.

Conservative Cllr Linda Richards' 4-year term of office is due to end. There is usually one councillor voted in each year and, as there are 3 councillors, there will be no election next year.

This responsible post comes with an allowance of £16,300 in 21/22. Expenses are paid and extra responsibility on committees means more money.

If you want to stand as a councillor, visit www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-england

No Support for Boston Spa Community & Homeless Project from 2 Councils



On Wetherby's largest social media group with 25,000+ members, a spokesperson said:

"We find it disappointing that Wetherby Town Council, nor Boston Spa Parish Council, will support our project, which provides for struggling families putting food on the table who are living hand to mouth month in month out, providing emergency funds for heating, funds for petrol so they can get to work waiting for pay day and helping the homeless in our community (yes, we have homeless in our area and domestic violence fleeing for a safe place).

We are very grateful that several local businesses have supported us and many many people in the community constantly support us with donations all year round, yet the council funding pot refuses our applications. Maybe if we joined a PTA, baked cakes, served tea in china cups, started Maypole dancing riding on a tandem bike together and bought a trombone to play at the bandstand we may get some funding? Food for thought...." Indeed it is. Different point of view? We'll print it.



Leeds put on a superb display in the FA Cup replay against Cardiff on ITV4. The fans had been waiting for a performance like this for a long time. With a goal in the first minute, they dominated the team from Wales and the result was never in doubt. The confidence overflowed and more goals were inevitable. Let's hope United can play like this in the league. 5 - 2 it finished.



It was the same score last time Leeds played their next opponents, Brentford and they lost. So a better result this time with no goals at all. Leeds had the better chances against a side in the top half of the table but they lacked the clinical finish. It was a better performance but United have not won in the League at home since August.

Tyler Adams said on Sky's Soccer AM that he tells everyone that the

Leeds United fans are the best supporters he has seen, claiming that he gets goosebumps every time he steps out at Elland Road.

Anyone fancy 2 matches in 4 days against the old enemy, Man United? You got it!

Acc Stanley v **Utd** on Sat 28 Jan at 12.30 FA Cup **BBC ONE**

Notts Forest v **Utd** on Sun 5 Feb at 14.00 **sky sports**

Man Utd v **Utd** on Wed 8 Feb at 20.00

Utd v Man Utd on Sun 12 Feb at 14.00 **sky sports**



Carl Behan, 31, of Ceres Road has been jailed for 8 years for serious offences including making threats, assault and criminal damage. The judge called him dangerous and said his behaviour towards his girlfriends was 'disgusting'.

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

**We can design your ad FOR FREE
Just send us the details & images**



Next Issue 37 - Fri 10 Feb



Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Twitter: [@WbyFreePress](https://twitter.com/WbyFreePress)

Tel: 07840 862861



Editor: **Paul Kirby**

Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Twitter: [@wbyfreepress](https://twitter.com/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. You, nor ourselves, can be sued for libel 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.

Please donate

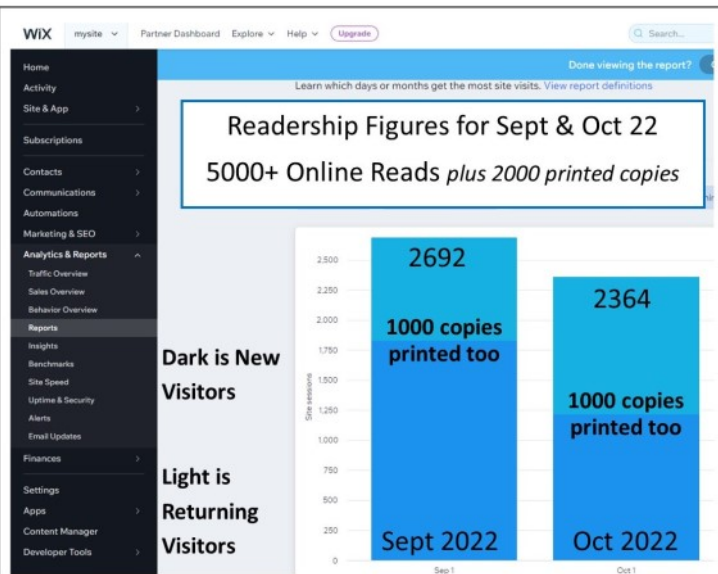
direct to PK Marketing

Acct No 46368560

Sort Code 090127

Thank You

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 Highlighted



Local People & their Worthy Causes

Send us your

to WetherbyFreePress@PM.me



Let's Make Wetherby Better Together in 2023