



Our Retreating River

ISSUE 26 until Fri 9 Sept '22

Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

YOUR Community Newsletter

every 2 Weeks

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Wetherby in Bloom

NOTICE REGARDING WATERING

Following 3 challenging months when volunteers have pulled out all the stops to keep the hanging baskets and planters looking superb, we are now faced with imminent restrictions on water usage.

The Committee have decided to curtail the watering activities by removing some high-level hanging baskets at the end of August. Watering with cans is permitted and will continue to be undertaken into September maintaining a colourful display for the Town.

Thank you to all our volunteers and supporters during 2022 season

Serious Accident on Harewood Rd, Collingham on Thurs 25 Aug



Yorkshire Air Ambulance called

No info from West Yorkshire Police - Leeds North East on their Twitter @WYP_LeedsNE

Image from Twitter @YappAppLtd



Bramham Area

Leeds Festival - Fri to Sun 28 Aug affecting bus routes 7 & 174

A58 in Harehills

Leeds West Indian Carnival - 12.00 Sun 28 Aug to 6.30 Tues 30 Aug affecting bus route X99



The new 'East Leeds Orbital' ring road crossing the A58 at the Wellington pub opened on 22 Aug, as promised before the Festival. It is 4.5 miles long and cost £?? (no figure in press release) and allows for development of 5000 new homes.

Inside

How You Think Wetherby can be Improved



The Alec Shelbrooke Page

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Next Issue on Fri 9 Sep is ONLINE ONLY at www.pkmarketing1.com/wetherby-free-press



Contact us at

WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

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



Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

News, Funny Stuff & Improving Accountability

Adverts **50%** of *On Your Doorstep* rates:

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1/2 page (size D) - £60 or £200 for 4

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We can design your ad FOR FREE
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Issue 27 - Fri 9 Sept

Issue 28 - Fri 23 Sept Full 1000 print

Issue 29 - Fri 7 Oct



Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

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

Tel: 07840 862861

What's On



**Wetherby
Autumn
Craft Market**

Wetherby Town Hall

Saturday 3rd September

10am-4pm

Over 25 Craft Stalls

Free Entry



**Wetherby Bandstand Brass
Band Concerts 2.30 - 4.30**

Sun 28 Aug - Shepherd Group
Mon 29 Aug - Dodworth Colliery
Sun 4 Sept - Harrogate




Lucky Duck Food

£1

on Sundays

Why not feed the ducks whilst you're there?

Over £500 raised for charity last year

The 44th Wetherby Arts Festival starts on Friday 30 Sept and runs until Sunday 9 Oct. Covid cancelled the 2020 event and restricted the one in 2021 to a truncated open air event. Now the festival is back with a packed programme over 10 days at a range of venues.

Programme details can also be found on the website

www.wetherbyfestival.co.uk/

Tickets are on sale now and can be booked on the website or from Thursday 15 Sept at the Box Office in the foyer of Wetherby Town Hall.

Festival Chairman, Robert Haskins, said "It's great to be fully back in business with a super Festival programme. We have something for all ages, with music, comedy, theatre, a fabulous literary lunch and various fringe events. With plenty of choice, please don't delay in booking your tickets."



We are the Friendliest

Opens 7am

£1 entry for buyers over 16s

Sellers: from 6am No booking necessary
£12 cars, £16 vans, +£3 trailers

Please have exact money

Dogs welcome on a lead

Ample parking, refreshments & toilets

Postcode is LS22 5EJ



Amazing Variety of Old & New Items to Buy Every Week!

Send Your Events, News & Views **2** to WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Alec Shelbrooke, 46, has been our Conservative MP for more than 10 years. His basic salary is £84K (£2,200 rise in Apr '22) In the 2019 election 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, in Mar 22, against the party whip. He did not inform his constituents which way he voted in the Boris Johnson Vote of No Confidence in May 2022.

Space for Alec to tell readers anything he wants, unedited (max 400 words) Wetherby Issues, Cost of Living Crisis, Resident Issues he's Pursuing, Strikes Nothing received



NUMBER CRUNCHING 1 - 21 Aug

Tweets in Support of Liz Truss	165
Tweets about Constituency Issues	0
Tweets about Cost of Living Crisis	0

*** Update - On 23 Aug Alec posted a 46 second video mentioning the cost of living crisis and £37Bn of gov'n't help for people ***

Whilst many of us are worried sick about making ends meet, Alec has focussed on a very small group of his own party members this month and largely ignored the rest of us on social media.

The number of tweets suggests extremely strong support for Liz Truss. It makes you wonder why this is necessary when the two candidates are in the same party and surely have the same fundamental political beliefs. And we are sure local party members are intelligent enough to make their own minds up and do not need so many constant reminders of Alec's preference.

We think most Wetherby folk do not care who wins this vote as long as the occupant of No 10 does something effective to address the serious issues we are all facing.

In one of 2 non-Truss tweets in the 3-week period, Alec thought it important to inform us that Leeds being in the running for the next Eurovision Song Contest is 'great news for Leeds'. We think that is pretty low down in most residents' list of current priorities!



Alec got 2 mentions in the latest edition. One was about a freebie to see the British Grand Prix. No Tweets about that on 3 July. A nice perk of the job. Vroom, Vroom!



We are non-political - if Alec was Labour etc we would say exactly the same

How can Wetherby be Improved?

It's a simple question we asked on social media. Bizarrely, some people criticised us for asking such a question. They want to believe that everything is perfect in the world. Good luck to them in their comfortable bubble.



Meanwhile in the real world the rest of us try to improve things. Many think Wetherby is far from perfect, as the responses below show. It was disappointing to see none of our councillors joining in the debate or commenting on any of your posts on Nextdoor and Wetherby Grumbler Facebook group. We will ask them for comment.

There were well over 100 responses. They are sorted into 5 categories. The first is:

General

- * Wetherby is in what they call the Golden Triangle, yet we look like the poor relation.
- * Reopen the Police Station full time.
- * Easy Answer - lack of direction, website is appalling, dirty. Sort these out and we are moving forward, look how Boston Spa has developed in 3 or 4 years.
- * Get rid of the *Better Wetherby Partnership Ltd*. They have achieved nothing. We have to identify problems and solutions. A solution is to have stronger and more committed councillors and local groups. The councillors don't seem to try to improve local facilities.
- * The town has to be made more attractive by actively marketing/promoting the town within Yorkshire and beyond. Reliance on the "Welcome to Wetherby" website is passive and insufficient, especially as it is woefully out-of-date referring to an event "on the horizon" for 2020! Overall a coordinated initiative is required with target outcomes. Surely there are enough organisations in a town the size of Wetherby that can work together to provide the revitalisation needed?
- * Not sure a town crier improves the appearance of Wetherby or has the necessary "pull" to bring people in to use the facilities. Ultimately, there are better alternatives to Wetherby within close proximity. Boston Spa has a lot more life than Wetherby, so I'd emulate them if nothing else.



Future editions will quote responses on Shops & Businesses, Public Transport, Environment & Facilities, and Leisure

Councillor stops written contact with WFP

Cllr Alan Lamb is one of three Conservative Leeds City Councillors for Wetherby, and is also a Town Councillor. He has decided not to engage with the Wetherby Free Press any more in writing.

Cllr Lamb gave 2 reasons for his change of mind. Firstly, he said "I don't find your line of written questions to be constructive, fair or helpful." Secondly, he said that the Editor has 'declined multiple opportunities' to meet.

We feel that this is particularly disappointing as Cllr Lamb was a councillor who seemed enthusiastic about some of the issues raised. In his email he provided no examples of our non-constructive, unfair or unhelpful questions.

Meetings are not an efficient use of their time or ours in most instances, as we have explained to all councillors. We ask reasonable questions about legitimate issues in writing, as the WFP is a publication of the written word. It is reasonable to expect a reply in writing. It avoids any misunderstandings as we can use quotes. We give everyone a right to reply if they aren't happy with what is written about them. We do not make a penny from the newsletter and must earn a living - there is no time to spend on unnecessary meetings.

All councillors had two opportunities to 'Meet the Editor' in May but not one took it up.

Of course, Cllr Lamb has no obligation to respond to the WFP or any publication. However, he has a clear duty to respond to a constituent and resident of Wetherby for over 30 years.

Cllr Lamb says he "will report what I'm doing through my social media platforms". He provided no details of which platforms he means, which was unhelpful.

He cannot mean @WetherbyCllrs on Twitter with only 5 tweets this year so far, and they only managed one last year! He must mean his personal Twitter account (@Alan_Lamb17) and the Facebook page for Wetherby Ward Councillors @WetherbyWardCllrs.

There were two issues Cllr Lamb told us he was looking into.



No progress yet reported on this 'good idea'

situation has probably got worse as the car park opposite Mojis is now fining people for parking there at any time of the day.

No specific action or progress reported on social media (as at 24 Aug)

Are you sympathetic with Cllr Lamb's stance? Tell us, we'll print it.

We hope Cllr Lamb changes his mind.

1 The 'A1 Sign Campaign' (Issues 17, 18 & 22) which he described as 'a good idea well worth pursuing'. The aim is to give our hospitality businesses a massive boost by tempting the £millions that pass by on the A1(M) every year.

This is particularly disappointing if Cllr Lamb stops work on it - it will die a death as Welcome to Wetherby and Wetherby Business Association have shown no interest in it.

No specific action or progress reported on social media (as at 24 Aug)

2 The Blocking of Wetherby Bus Station Exit (Issues 7, 8 & 13). Lines were painted in the wrong place and nothing has changed. The



Vehicles still causing delays to buses

Reminder: WFP is non-political - we have criticised our Labour Mayor & Labour-run Leeds City Council

Wetherby Town Council meetings are monthly (2nd Tues).

The last general mtg was on 9 August. One third (5) of councillors were absent. The minutes include:

15 new litter bins have been installed in the Council's green spaces • **It cost about £3,500** to replace the vandalised play equipment at Mason Field • **Wall repairs at Millennium Field** have begun and others commissioned at the Hallfield Lane Cemetery and Mason Field • **Concern has been expressed about the condition of the Church on the Corner** - the congregation no longer meets in the building • **Wall repairs at Jubilee Gardens & window repairs at the Bath House** are awaiting the discharge of planning conditions by Leeds Council.

Ward Councillors have written to the **local HGV driver training agencies** to see if they would consider working to limit the amount of vehicles and timings of training exercises.



CRIME: Figures for July - 11 incidents of anti-social behaviour and 64 other crime reports. *No comment from councillors.*

Latest PACT Mtg: PC Steve Lane had attended this meeting when discussions were held about the issue of water safety and anti-social behaviour at the weir on the River Wharfe. Items of play equipment have been removed at Sandringham Park to try and reduce anti-social behaviour in that area.

Welcome to Wetherby : May and June's meetings had been inquorate so no new decisions were able to be taken. Elaine Smith was appointed as a non-Councillor member. The group wants to include more members from other community organisations.

Why does this important group have such low attendance? No details about Elaine Smith and why she is qualified to be a member.

See page 7 for more about 'Welcome to Wetherby'.



The New Logo
(sent as a whopping 2MB jpg)

TRANSPORT NEWS



In recent months we have noticed, and so have many of you, that our fuel prices are much higher than other parts of the county (and country). Recent visits to the Lake District and the Dales have surprised us with the price differences. One by Lake Windermere was at least 10p a litre cheaper than our two stations. Why is this when we used to be one of the cheapest places?

Cost of Unleaded Correct on Thurs 25 Aug to nearest penny

Wetherby Shell & Morrisons both £1.78 Windermere £1.66
 Difference b/w here and the Lakes to fill average tank of 55 litres is £6.60

For the first time that we can remember, Morrisons was more expensive than Shell recently!



Much cheaper petrol in rural Lake District

Last few days for £1 fare on Harrogate Bus Co after 7pm Ends 31 Aug

Which of these displays is easiest to see?



West Yorks



Nottingham



London



Berlin

The standard for visual displays has been orange on black for decades. There's a simple reason for this - it is clearest format to see, especially for the visually-impaired.

It is no surprise to us that Metro/WYCA have installed many around here with black on grey. This is yet another example of low standards and the reason why we believe they would not be capable of running the buses, which the Labour Mayor would like to see happen. Yet again, they cannot manage to get the basics right (see previous issues for more examples). And it has yet to be proven these real time displays actually work properly!

We write to those ultimately responsible but they do not respond. They are Ben Still, MD of Metro/WYCA, ben.still@westyorks-ca.gov.uk. Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorks, mayoral.enquiries@westyorks-ca.gov.uk

Our Conservative councillors have not written to Metro/WYCA about any of the issues highlighted in the WFP, as far as we know. They could make political gain out of it. It seems nobody cares about making this publicly-funded organisation accountable.

Film fans are welcome at Harrogate Odeon

If you are missing the delights of Wetherby Film Theatre while it is closed for refurbishment, manager Tim Heaton has contacted us about an alternative.

Local film fans may be interested in Harrogate Film Society's upcoming season of films.

- ◆ The films are shown at the Odeon cinema on Mondays from 12 Sep until 3 April 2023
 - ◆ It costs £52.50 for 15 films, which is only £3.50 per film
 - ◆ Films are from all over the world inc Spain, Germany, France & Vietnam
- Visit www.harrogatefilmsociety.org.uk for the full list

The No 7 bus stops right outside the cinema.

On Mon 19 September Harrogate Film Society together with Harrogate Civic Society are showing a film they specially commissioned from Yorkshire Film Archive:



"Harrogate on Film" is your opportunity to enjoy an amazing mix of archive footage – the people, places, major events, and everyday life in the historic town

of Harrogate and neighbouring Knaresborough in the 20th century, specially curated and presented by the Yorkshire Film Archive.



My Dad sat me down to talk about organ donation. Such a selfless bloke, a man after my own heart.



"Oh, don't be such a misery – lots of kids like to bury their dad in the sand"

Imaginative note to leaving work colleague (USA)



You hear about that miracle birth in the Amazon? A woman got pregnant and had a next day delivery.

Bloke tried nicking some Italian food but the female security guard stopped him. He couldn't get pasta.

Our Conservative Town Council (most of it)

Finally, our town council have replaced a misleading image (over 3 years old) which pictured one councillor who had left over 3 years ago. But



..... there should be 15 councillors there but only 11 are pictured.

A quarter of them were not present. The Council do not put anything as useful as a list of names underneath the image so we have to work out who's not there ourselves.

They are Cllr Samantha Bennett, Cllr Joanne Maltby, Cllr Connor Mulhall. And Cllr Harry Chapman, we think? The image is low resolution (small size) and some councillors look similar so we are not sure who is missing.

It is disappointing so many were not there. Their individual images on the website may be many years old and, like many in these 2 images, they may now have very different appearances.

Their omission could give the impression that these particular councillors are not keen on being recognised by their constituents. Why isn't there a second image of the 4 missing councillors?

In these days of equality and diversity, does this council accurately represent our community? It is clear that most of them are of a certain gender and age.

It is no surprise that so few younger residents fancy having a go at being a councillor when they have no idea of what the role entails. That is why we have asked each councillor the general questions we do (see past editions). That is why it is so disappointing they are not willing to answer them.

Please tell us what you think, and the councillors. They are just an email away. The address format is firstname.surname@wetherby.co.uk - visit the insecure council website www.wetherby.co.uk for more info.

Please do not put WFP stickers on public property

'Welcome to Wetherby' Making Mugs of Us?



Background Details from Minutes of Meetings

- * Three quotes had been obtained by Cllr Hawkins for the provision of memorabilia mugs.
- * Following discussion, it was agreed that the preferred option was to purchase 250 mugs with the purple colouring, with just the Platinum Logo design on one side, at a cost of £2.68, with a selling price of £3.00.
- * Invoice to AJ Promotions of Bickerton £980

We asked the Town Council for the reason for them buying £980 of Platinum Jubilee mugs and selling them. We asked "How do mugs improve the image of the town or benefit anyone except the residents who buy them? Is it worth the risk of losing money on them?"

They replied: "The Town Council does not hold information in relation to the rationale for the purchase of the Jubilee mugs."

So there is no record of any discussion by Welcome to Wetherby. No basic information at all about why nearly a grand of our money was spent on mugs. Where is the accountability?



No Image of WTC Jubilee Mug Available

Receipts	
Ticket Sales	£ 14,626.62
Advert Sales	£ 1,620.00
Donations	£ 605.90
Mugs	£ 201.58
TOTAL	£ 17,054.10
Payments	
Proms Event	£ 21,415.86
Promotions	£ 1,295.19
Mugs	£ 816.48
Misc	£ 387.41
TOTAL	£ 23,914.94
Current Balance	-£ 6,860.84
Leeds City Council Grant	£ 10,000.00

We asked for the sales figures of the mugs and they provided these figures on the left for the whole Welcome to Wetherby Jubilee Event. These figures were not available with any meeting minutes on the council website.

Why does 'payments' say £816 when £980 was paid for the mugs?

It looks to us that 67 mugs were bought out of the 250 for sale. That is less than a third. This was not acknowledged in the meeting of 21 July, at which the Chair Cllr Hawkins was absent. Not acknowledging poor performance means standards will stay low and similar mistakes made in the future. In our view these mugs were a bad idea and waste of our money.

In the Welcome to Wetherby meeting of 21 July Cllrs Buckle, Harrington & Moss, and member Elaine Smith said: "Rather than arrange a celebration evening to acknowledge the individuals and community groups who had contributed to the event, it was agreed that a jubilee mug be provided with a letter of acknowledgement, to all individuals, groups and sponsors."



In other words, our Conservative Councillors had intended to have a knees up with their colleagues, but thankfully saw sense in these times of economic crisis and took the opportunity to get rid of the unpopular mugs instead.

This is exactly why we need an independent newsletter keeping an eye on things and telling you exactly what is going on. There is £3000 of our money unspent, which they decided will be ring-fenced for a 'future event'. Let's hope they use it wisely.

Cllr Victor Hawkins, pictured, & Welcome to Wetherby (and the Council in general) should use social media to CONSULT with the residents of Wetherby BEFORE they spend money on things like this. It is free and will give them some idea of the support their ideas have.



And, as the recent suggestions by Wetherby residents for town improvements has shown, the public may have better and more imaginative ideas.

Wetherby Grumbler has nearly 24,000 members and Nextdoor is also a popular social network. They are both free and posts should take little time and effort to write.

Public Consultation



Recruitment Process Costs £2,100 + travel expenses

In Issue 23 we told you about the Town Council's intention to appoint an Operations Manager. This process will cost over £2000. No details of salary or hours were stated. However, details were included about a new Burials Manager post, which included "hybrid working between the Cemetery, Town Hall and working from home." This person is to be appointed internally.



These appointments, and possible future ones, will cost a lot of money. We can find no details of why an Operations Manager is now needed. Why is there no basic information about this post, like there is for the Burials Manager? Surely we can know whether the post is full-time or not. And shouldn't we be told approximately how much these extra staff will cost us in total?

If someone has slandered the Free Press 7 to you, do the right thing and tell us



Two wins and a draw so far and things are looking good for Marsch's men. If they hadn't lost a 2-goal lead at Southampton they



would be joint top. To beat Chelsea at Elland Road so convincingly was a surprise for many. The Sky Sports millions saw a superb 3-0 win. Leeds are third as we go into the weekend games.



Leeds striker Rodrigo, born in Brazil and plays for Spain. His 4th goal of the season against Chelsea made him the Premier League's top scorer.

Let's hope we see him around town.

Brighton v Utd on Sat 27 Aug at 15.00
 Utd v Everton on Tues 30 Aug at 20.00
 Brentford v Utd on Sat 3 Sep at 15.00

1	Arsenal	9
2	Man City	7
3	Leeds	7



Harrogate in League 2 are mid-table after 5 games.

Town v Newport on Sat 27 Aug at 15.00
 Hartlepool v Town on Tues 30 Aug at 19.00 - EFL Trophy
 Sutton Utd v Town on Sat 3 Sep at 15.00



National League York City had a winning start but have failed to win since. 4 points from 4 games.

Maidenhead v City on Sat 27 Aug at 15.00
 City v Oldham on Mon 29 Aug at 15.00
 Yeovil v City on Sat 3 Sep at 15.00



The Rhinos continued their winning streak in Super League beating 3rd place Huddersfield 18 - 14. In a thrilling game Austin scored a late try to secure the Rhino's 8th victory in 9 games. They just need one win in their final 2 matches to guarantee a play-off place. Who would bet against them reaching the final on this form?



Blake Austin scores late winner

No mention of game on late BBC Look North. They claim "Latest News & Sport"!

		Played	Points
1	St Helens	24	40
2	Wigan	24	34
3	Huddersfield	25	31
4	Catalans Dragons	25	30
5	Leeds	25	27
6	Salford	25	26
7	Castleford	25	26

Catalans Dragons v Rhinos on Mon 29 Aug at 19.00 sky sports arena
 Rhinos v Castleford on Sat 3 Sep at 15.00

Town Hall Internet. In the last issue we described the 'significant issues' with it, which 'negatively impacted' the Town Hall staff, according to meeting minutes. Jamie Hullah of Touch Telecom contacted us to say that "there are multiple factors surrounding the issues experienced by the Town Hall. I would strongly recommend you ascertain these facts prior to publishing our company in your Free Press."

He also said "the free WiFi provided in Wetherby is completely separate to the internet they provide to the Town Hall."



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, unless it is too long.

If facts are wrong, we will apologise publicly and correct the error. We quote directly to avoid any misunderstandings. We don't do spoken interviews – summarising what people say is a difficult skill and the interviewee will often not be happy with the result.

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

Trying to intimidate us without justification is bullying behaviour and will not be tolerated. Unjustifiable threats of legal action that are made more than once could be used in a criminal case of harassment.

Please donate

so we can continue

at Bob Shop (Mason House stores) & Costellos



or direct to PK Marketing
 Acct No 46368560
 Sort Code 090127

Thank you



Useful Contact Info

W'by Town Council: 583584 www.wetherby.co.uk admin@wetherby.co.uk

Facebook: [wetherbycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/wetherbycouncil) Twitter: [wetherbytc](https://twitter.com/wetherbytc)

Leeds City Council: 0113 222 4444 www.leeds.gov.uk

Facebook: [LeedsCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/LeedsCouncil) Twitter: [LeedsCC_Help](https://twitter.com/LeedsCC_Help)

W'by Library: 583144 libraryenquiries@leeds.gov.uk

W'by Tourist Info: inside library 582151

W'by Leisure Centre: 0113 378 1265 wetherby.lc@leeds.gov.uk

W'by Health Centres: Hallfield Lane 585669
 Crossley St 543200

Buses: Connexions: 01423 339600 www.connexionsbuses.com

First Leeds: 0345 646 0707 www.firstbus.co.uk/leeds

Harrogate Bus Co: 01423 56 60 61 www.transdevbus.co.uk/harrogate/

Metro: For all West Yorkshire bus times & all issues with bus stops, shelters and stations 0113 245 7676 www.wymetro.com

W'by Social Media: Facebook: Wetherby Grumbler 22,600 members

W'by Foodbank: info@wetherbyanddistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Twitter: [WBYFoodbank](https://twitter.com/WBYFoodbank)

Make your voice heard