



Free Press

Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

ISSUE 30 until Mon 24 Oct '22

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

Spoons' Debate hits National Press

Wetherby featured in the UK's most famous tabloid on 6 Oct. The title of the article claimed that the town is too posh for a Wetherspoons pub.

This was based on interviews with 3 people. One said he doesn't like Wetherspoons and they create a disturbance. He was quoted as saying there's a lot of drunkenness and unpleasant behaviour at the pubs added there should be another more suitable venue in another town, suggesting Sheffield.

Another resident said that Wetherby is a very conservative town with their noses in the air, and that he doesn't know how Spoons are going to appeal to people like that.

Comment *The Sun is one of the best-selling papers in the land with about a million readers, plus those who read it online. The suggestion that most residents are 'angry' and against the pub chain is very doubtful. But there are a surprising number opposing it, showing that the general description as a conservative town is very close to the truth. A reader's letter on page 6 puts the other side of the argument and is very much pro-Wetherspoons.*



3,000+ Readers last month

Thank You

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Next Issue on Mon 24 Oct will be printed, 1000 copies

CONTACT Email: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me Twitter: @WbyFreePress

As we reported in the last issue, the 412 Wetherby to York bus is under serious threat of ending.

BBC Look North picked up on this and 2 weeks later featured it on the evening programme on 13 Oct. Spencer Stokes is the Transport Correspondent but Nicola Rees reported from Tockwith, interviewing 3 unhappy residents, fearful of the consequences if the service ended.

One lady said she relied on the bus to get to Wetherby for doctor, dentist and other appointments. She had no other way of getting there. The large village in North Yorkshire would be totally isolated if it was to be withdrawn, as there is no other public transport.

Ironically, the company that runs the service is based in Tockwith. Craig Temple said they would love to continue to run the service but it has been running at a loss and with rising costs, it is coming to a head. He hopes the local councils can find funding from somewhere to continue this vital service. And he hopes that more people use it, otherwise the village may lose it.



Look North contacted North Yorkshire County Council but they didn't get back to them.

Different dates have been given as to when it may be withdrawn; Nicola Rees said December.

Leeds City Cllrs Richards, Lamb & Harrington are trying to organise a public meeting with bus co's and authorities about this and route 7 cuts.

Our Report on the 412 in the Last Issue

TRANSPORT NEWS

Craig Temple of *Connexions Buses*, operator of the 412 Wetherby to York tells us 'it is likely to be withdrawn when the current round of BRG funding finishes', which is the end of March 2023.

There are currently 6 buses a day taking about 30 minutes to reach York via Tockwith. There is no evening or Sunday service, and currently no Saturday service due to the driver shortage. This is an important route as it would take about 1.5 hours to reach York by public transport without this direct route, and at a large cost. The government promised £3bn for buses. This is a service from Wetherby that should be improved, not lost altogether.

We asked Wetherby's 3 Leeds City Councillors what they could do to prevent the loss of the 412. They have not responded or given us any views on this vital service yet.

Warning over Future of Bus to York



The Ferrari will get you to York quicker but which has the better views?

New Bench by Weir but Area still 'Unightly'

After our article in the last issue about this riverside asset being wasted, a new bench was installed. It's a shame it wasn't done in the Spring when residents and visitors could enjoy it during the hot summer we've had. The path has yet to be cleared, and trees and bushes cut back. We asked whether *Welcome to Wetherby / Town Council / Weir Preservation Trust* have any plans for this area. Will there be new signage and efforts made to provide a clear view of the weir? We checked and there was nothing about it on the *Weir Preservation Trust* Facebook page. We asked if they needed any volunteers. If so, we could help but there was no response.

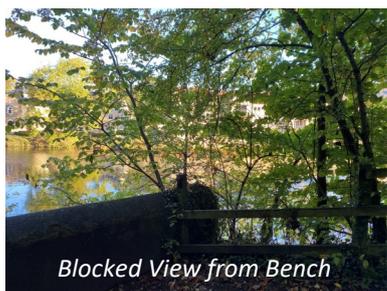
A reader on social media posted:

"The steep concrete pathway to the "beach " area is incredibly

dangerous. It is slippery and I am still recovering 14 weeks later from a horrendous fall ... weeks of wearing a knee brace, crutches and physiotherapy appointments. Reported to LCC but no action so far. It is a lethal area not just unsightly "

We asked for clarification of exactly where this took place and she replied that it "happened on the ramp leading to the beach area ...near the bandstand /carpark. She added that she had "reported to local councillor but nothing seems to be happening. I've since heard of other people who suffered the same ..obviously a dangerous situation."

Another reader posted: "I think the river area could be a lot better and more accessible than it is. At the moment it's not possible for people with pushchairs or wheelchairs to follow the river footpath around the Ings. And as you stated the area around the weir is unsightly."



Blocked View from Bench

Boston Spa Beer Festival

Bring on the Bratwurst

This year's festival promises to be a particularly outstanding one, having being postponed due to the pandemic since February 2020. This year's event is taking place in October, which ties in nicely with the German

Oktoberfest. Themes from this world-famous event will be featured. From Bavaria to Boston Spa! There will be great beer, bratwurst and the occasional Oompah band.

The Festival organisers say: "With amazing drinks, food and live music on offer, those attending can enjoy a pint knowing that they're supporting St Mary's Primary School, to which all profits are donated.

The festival boasts over 50 of the finest ales from Yorkshire, with a great selection of cider and lagers from across the UK. We have upgraded the prosecco bar to a prosecco lounge and for those with a more delicate taste we are offering both Boston Spa Gin and Folklore Society Gin. Both are distilled in Yorkshire, so virtually all of the drinks on offer are from 'God's own county'.

For the first time there will be a selection of food vans available on both Friday and Saturday, including pizza from Big Red Oven, huge German Bratwurst sausages with loads of yummy toppings from The Yorkshire Brat. For those with a sweet tooth, Little City Waffles will also be joining us on the Saturday.

As ever, the line-up of live music is outstanding with indie and rock covers band, The Avros, headlining on Friday and 70s, 80s and 90s rock and pop band Neon Lives, playing the top spot on Saturday.

If you've not been to the Festival before, Friday night is a lively event where you get a mixture of ale lovers and friends coming together to enjoy themselves and have a dance.

Saturday is a little more laid back with lots of free children's entertainment throughout the afternoon, including disco, glitter tattoos, face painting, balloon modelling and a silent disco."

The organisers are grateful to the sponsors, whose loyalty and investment ensure the viability of the Beer Festival:

Renton & Parr ** Kirby's Builders Merchants ** Dencold Refrigeration ** Optimum Vehicles
Grape + Gather ** Scapeschool ** PDS Construction

Ken Bird, Managing Director, Renton & Parr, said: "Boston Spa Beer Festival has got to be one of the best events in the local calendar, the event does a great job of showcasing some of the best beers that Yorkshire has to offer and we're delighted to be supporting it again".

Fri 28 and Sat 29 October at Boston Spa Village Hall





Cost of Unleaded

Correct on Thurs 13 Oct to nearest penny

Shell £1.72

Morrisons £1.69 Harrogate Sainsburys £1.59

Difference b/w Shell & Sainsburys to fill average tank of 55 litres is £7.15

From 6 November, the Harrogate to Leeds buses are to be cut to hourly from half-hourly during the day. It has been hourly on Saturdays recently because of the driver shortage. It has always been hourly in the evenings and on Sundays. *Harrogate Bus Co (Transdev)* say the change is 'to reflect customer demand'. See Transdev.co.uk/Harrogate. Judging from social media, many passengers are not happy about this. More in next issue of WFP.

Mixed Start for Transdev's X98/99

The very first bus to Leeds at 9.07 on Sun 2 Oct - No big launch



On a sunny Sunday morning *Transdev* began their operation of the X98/99 route to Leeds.

It was an inauspicious start; none of the expected fanfare that *Transdev* usually does when launching the route. The Editor was a little disappointed.

(The PR people and the Managing Director, Alex Hornby were there early the next day with their freebies for the commuters and students)

The first journey took about a dozen of us into Leeds. Passengers were very impressed with the interior. Two girls boarding at Scarcroft commented 'this is a fancy bus, so cool'.

The tables, thick seats, charging points all give a luxurious feel to it. The Wifi did not work on that first trip but has done since and is noticeably better than the *Firstbus* Wifi was.

Transdev clearly stated in their publicity that the timetable was unchanged. This was untrue. There were differences in timings as much as 6 minutes - which could mean passengers missing buses. After exchanges on *Twitter*, it was disappointing that

Transdev did not admit to misleading people, or apologise for it.

The service is run by *Coastliner* which is based in Malton. After asking them on *Twitter*, they eventually told us that the *Twitter* account of *Harrogate Bus Company*, @harrogatebus, will have information about route delays etc. They also run the other route from Wetherby to Leeds via Boston Spa, the 7, see above.

A bus route lives or dies on reliability. You could have your own personal host/hostess serving drinks and providing massages onboard but if it's constantly late or cancelled, passengers will not use it.

There was some initial dissatisfaction with its reliability aired on social media, namely *Wetherby Grumbler* (24K+ members). It is a shame the operator is not a member of this Facebook group and can respond to criticism and compliments. The

cause of delays is often **not** the fault of the bus company. There was a delay entering Leeds on Sat 8 Oct and the knock-on effect for the following buses would mean many were late. *Transdev's* app *Transdev Go* is very useful and shows you the position of the bus.

It was worrying to see that on that Saturday six of the *Coastliner* buses on the Leeds to Scarborough route were cancelled, and that was on a day of rail strikes. There is still a UK-wide shortage of drivers and *Transdev* are working hard to attract staff with a bonus of £3K.

It is good to see the printed timetable booklets all over town. But it should have a timing for Roundhay Park and Oakwood Clock, main destinations. It's good to see a map included of many Leeds routes but the text is too small. Also surprising to see *Transdev's* route 7 not on the map.

We asked *Transdev* if they would have the *Metro* newspaper onboard but they did not respond.

There were a few other minor quibbles but they would probably happen whatever operator.

Let's hope the above are just teething problems and improvements will be made.

But the buses are luxurious so if you haven't tried the service, give it a go. £2 to Leeds and £2 back is a bargain. And their 'Next Stop' announcements avoid any stress for new users.



Destination	Your Journey
Coastliner	All Services
Leeds City Square	X98
Roundhay Park	X98
Wetherby Bus Station	All Services
Wetherby	All Services

X98 Leeds		Coastliner	
Monday to Friday	Saturday	Sunday	No service
0636	0937	1537	
0736	1037	1637	
0836	1137	1736	
0937	1237		
1037	1337		
1137	1437		

X99 Leeds		Coastliner	
Monday to Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
0503	0905	1504	1504
0603	0705	1604	1704
2008	0906	1104	1804
2108	0906	1204	1804
2208	2308	1304	2208
	2108	1404	2108
	2208	1504	2208

Timetables at bus stops have now been updated



Local Democracy Page - 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 a Ministerial post in Sep '22. He has provided no information on social media about his new responsibilities and how it affects his work for constituents.



Space for Alec. Unedited (max 400 words)
Wetherby Issues? Cost of Living Crisis?
His Ministerial Post? Liz Truss Premiership?

Nothing received

Write to him at alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk



Alec has 17,000 followers on Twitter. In the past month (13 Sep - 13 Oct), he has tweeted 16 times. Most of them were party Retweets in support of Liz Truss & Kwasi Kwarteng, and on MoD matters. He has been travelling up and down the country visiting MoD bases. Only one tweet related to a local matter (in Scholes).

Wetherby Town Council is made up of 15 Councillors. They were all elected as Conservatives, although Cllr Chapman claims that the Town Council is not a political council. If this is the case, why they will not stand as Independents at the next election?

Leeds City Council is a Labour-run authority. Councillors are paid a basic allowance of £16,500. Many more £1000s can be claimed for being Chairs of meetings or whip, called SRA. Plus they can claim expenses. In 21/22 Cllr Lamb claimed the basic allowance of £16,300 + £20,000 SRA, Cllr Harrington £16,300 + £10,000 SRA. The Council Leader, currently Cllr James Lewis, has a £43,000 basic allowance. The Leader of the Opposition has a £26,000 basic allowance. The Chief Executive of Leeds City Council, Tom Riordan earns £186,000+ a year. The Labour Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin is paid £105,000.

**Our money so
make your
voice heard**



Cllr Linda Richards

Cllr Alan Lamb

Cllr Norma Harrington

Space for Cllrs Richards, Lamb & Harrington (& other Cllrs or their Supporters)

Unedited (max 400 words)

Wetherspoons? Bus Cuts?
Riverside area? Any Local Issues?

linda.richards@leeds.gov.uk, alan.lamb@leeds.gov.uk, norma.harrington@leeds.gov.uk



Councillors No Show

Residents in the Hallfield Lane area of the town were disappointed when Councillors did not turn up when they said they would. The Editor changed his diary to make sure he would not miss Cllrs Richards, Lamb or Harrington. He put the letter on the door as requested and stayed in for the 2 hours when they were expected. Cllrs Richards and Lamb apologised, blaming Leeds City Council officers for the mix-up. We suggest Councillors check everything that goes out on their behalf in future.

General Town Council meetings are monthly (2nd Tues) usually starting at 7pm at the Town Hall.

There was no meeting in September, apparently. There was an Extraordinary meeting on 4 Oct. No explanations provided. It lasted 22 minutes with only Staffing Ctte & Markets Ctte matters briefly dealt with.

See next issue of WFP for comment on 11 Oct meeting. Nobody else reports on council matters.

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

A Reader Writes:



Can't believe how narrow-minded people in this town are. There's nowt wrong with Wetherspoons, there's ones in Otley, Garforth and Knaresborough and Harrogate. Never seen trouble in any of their pubs but seen plenty in Wetherbys especially on racing days. Go in Spoons all round the country and they are without exception bloody good places. These people are snobs and obviously never been in a Spoons in their life. Best value there is, ok, food isn't great but you get what you pay for. It'll bring more people into town and off the A1 and that means all shops and stuff will benefit. (*Editor says research mentioned in Issue 6 backs that up*). What is the problem here?

And it'll bring jobs to the town and make Wetherby's worst pubs up their game, many have said this on Grumbler and agree with me. Ilkley's posher than Wetherby and they've got a Spoons and a Bettys.

This town is so backward, it's not funny. Keep up good work lad.

Editor says: My partner and I visited JD Wetherspoon pubs in Kendal, Keswick, Carlisle, Barrow, Workington and Whitehaven at all times of day this August. We had no complaints about any of them.

They have saved many old buildings from ruin, like the old cinema, pictured right, in Workington and an old court house in Keswick. They all have pictures and information about the history of the building.

They employ door staff at busier times and have CCTV so people should feel safer than in your average pub.

If you are one of those people fearful of change, visit the ones in Otley or Knaresborough. Or Harrogate's 'Winter Gardens' with its wonderful interior and tell us what you think.

The WFP has yet to hear from any town organisation about the prospect of a Wetherspoons here.



Workington, Cumbria



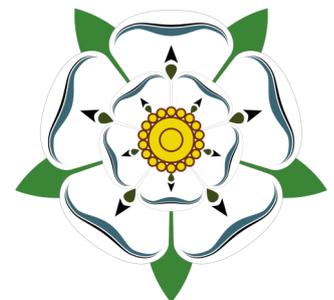
A spokesman said: "The company has built up a wide range of policies and procedures to ensure its pubs do not cause disturbance and noise to its neighbours.

Should the company be granted the necessary permissions for the proposed pub, we will be happy to meet with residents prior to opening to answer any questions that they might have. It is not our experience that when Wetherspoon opens a pub, that it has a negative effect on other businesses in a town. Instead, the pub can attract more visitors to the town centre, who will visit other shops and venues to the benefit of the area as a whole."

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Issue 31 - Mon 24 Oct, 1000 print

Issue 32 - Fri 11 Nov

Issue 33 - Fri 25 Nov, 1000 print



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Collingham Autumn Craft Market

Collingham Memorial Hall

Sunday 16th October

10am-4pm

Free Entry

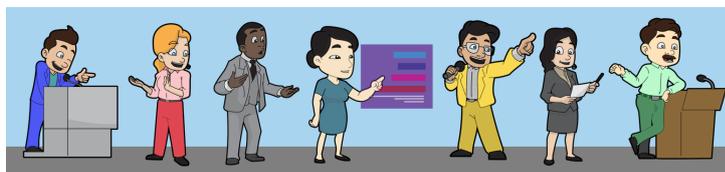
Bee-Crafty Markets

Wetherby & Boston Spa Mens Forum

The New Season of the Wetherby & Boston Spa Mens Forum continues. There is a marvellous variety of topics and new members are always welcome.

They meet on Wednesday mornings at 9.45am, St. James' Scout Hut, Church Street, Wetherby.

Speakers for 2022



- 19 Oct Was King Arthur a Yorkshireman? by Gillian Waters
- 26 Oct Vikings - did they really wear horned helmets? by Chris Helme
- 2 Nov North Yorks Moors National Park by Chris Francis
- 9 Nov The Workhouse by Denise Adlard
- 16 Nov America's Canyonlands by Tony Burkitt
- 23 Nov Victoria Cross Awards (RAF) by Martin Cocker
- 30 Nov Preserve Your Memories - 1960s by Malcolm Johnson
- 7 Dec Morecambe and Wise by John Clithero
- 15 Dec Christmas Lunch - The Bridge, Walshford

For more details visit <https://mensforum.wetherby.info/>
 or contact Mike Earle on 07526 007508.



For Sale - Aloe Vera (Perfoliata)

Grown in a front garden, this hardy plant needs no attention and grows quickly in right conditions.

An indoor or outdoor plant, it is thought to have wonderful curative powers and can benefit many ailments, especially those of the skin. Lots of videos on YouTube show you how to extract the gel, looks simple enough.

First come first served, in Hallfield Lane area of Wetherby.

Call 01937 581029 or email paulyorks@yahoo.com

No Sales after Sun 23 Oct

It's YOUR Newsletter - Plse send us your news, views & articles



My son chewed on an electrical cord today. Due to his current conduct, I had to ground him.

I told my wife she needs to start embracing her mistakes. So she hugged me.

Where do bad rainbows go? Prism. It is just a light sentence.

Anything is a pillow if you are tired enough



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Friends of Sandringham Park

The Friends can add more awards to their collection having won top places in not one but two award ceremonies in the past week.

The awards were from *Yorkshire in Bloom* and *It's Your Neighbourhood*. The first took place on Thursday at Riley Smith hall in Tadcaster. The Friends entry in the Parks division of *Yorkshire in Bloom* won the top award of platinum. That was their second top award!

The *it's Your Neighbourhood* awards were held at Harlow Carr gardens in Harrogate on Saturday. The Friends won an outstanding award, pictured right.

The *Yorkshire in Bloom* awards are assessed by independent assessors, who visit the parks and judge them on specific criteria. Criteria includes planting, environmental impact, sustainability, wildlife and pollution impact and community involvement and engagement to name just a few.

Kazia Knight, Chairwoman of the group said "We are very proud that as a small group we reach the highest standards. Platinum and outstanding awards are deemed those that score between 85 and 100 points."

We can but admire the wonderful achievement of these selfless volunteers. And thank them on the community's behalf.



Royal Mail strikes	
30th September	14th November
1st October	15th November
13th October	16th November
20th October	23rd November
25th October	24th November
2nd November	25th November
3rd November	28th November
4th November	30th November
8th November	1st December
9th November	2nd December
10th November	



Two Trainees pass each other on North Street

CM writes: This point appears to get raised on social media an ongoing basis, mainly based on inconvenience to other road users. We are dependent on LGV drivers that are safe, competent and confident in all conditions, including narrow town centres, to ensure that we can obtain all the goods for our lives. Surely we can demonstrate a little patience as we would with any learner driver; or do we adopt a "NIMBY" approach i.e. LGV drivers gain this experience anywhere other than Wetherby?

A month after their last competitive match Leeds drew 0 - 0 at home to Steve Gerrard's side, Aston Villa.



The game on Sky TV before this one was the magnificent beating of Manchester United by Manchester City. 6 - 3 it finished and would gladden the heart of most Leeds fans. But another goal-fest was not on the cards. It was a

Wrong Caption on Calendar - it was 0-0

frustrating, bad-tempered match which saw Leeds' Sinisterra sent off for two yellow card offences.



England International and former Leeds United midfielder, Calvin Phillips has a painting on the side of a riverside building in the Calls Lane area of the city centre. He moved to Manchester City in the summer but did not play in the Manchester derby. Born in Leeds, he is currently trying to get fit for the World Cup starting on Sun 20 Nov.

Leeds poor away form has seen them gain only 1 point so far this season. But they started well against Crystal Palace in another Sky match on Sun 9 Oct. Aaronson made a dazzling dribble in the box and his shot hit the post.



Palace winner left Meslier standing

Thankfully, Struijk was at hand to score from the rebound. But Palace got back into the game with a header from a free kick. Their winner gave the Leeds goalie no chance and it ended 2 - 1.

Utd v Arsenal on Sun 16 Oct at 14.00

Leicester City v Utd on Thurs 20 Oct at 20.15



Harrogate in League 2 are just above the relegation zone having lost 4 of their last 5 matches

Town v Hartlepool on Sat 15 Oct at 12.30

Town v Morecambe on Tues 18 Oct at 19.00 - EFL Trophy

Town v Tranmere on Sat 22 Oct at 15.00

The competition kicks off with:

England v Samoa

on Sat 15 Oct at 14.30

All matches will be on BBC channels. Headingley will host Australia v Fiji on Sat 15 Oct at

7:30pm. And Jamaica v Ireland on Sun 16 Oct at 5:00pm

The final is at Old Trafford, Manchester on Sat 19 Nov at 16.00



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 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.

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Somewhere along the line
common sense should prevail.

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 24,000+ members

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

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

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