



MERRY CHRISTMAS

# Wetherby



Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

Issue 55 **New Year - New Hope**

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

## Bus Blocking - Enough is Enough!

We will highlight this issue until something is done. Previous promises that something is being done have come to nothing. We name the car driver but is it a general deterrent? Doubtful.



Anna Archer caused 60 mins+ delay to 4 buses and inconvenience to 100s of passengers last month

Why is it so difficult to solve this simple problem in 2023? The car owner has come forward - see page 8. We sent an image with the full reg to Leeds City Councillor Penny Stables and she said she would forward it on to the Police. WYCA / Metro Board member Councillor Lamb is leading on this issue but did not say he has done the same; he continues to think it better for passengers to report it to the police themselves. The Editor knows for a fact that local West Yorks Police Officers take Councillor complaints much more seriously than Joe Public. Read the Police & car owner's reaction on page 8.

## Council Election forced by Residents

The election is on 8 Feb 2024 for a Wetherby Town Councillor (West Ward) after Barbara Harpham resigned. There has not been one for 4 years, according to a group of residents, so at least 10 of them wrote to the Returning Officer to make one happen. The resident who instigated this move has told the WFP that his friends and neighbours got together and obtained 16 signatures and he delivered it by hand on 4 December, one day before the deadline.

He says he did this 'not for any party political reason, but just to ensure that the democratic process is followed. The request was accepted and thus an election will take place.'



The resident would like to 'encourage people to stand for election' and wants 'to publicise this event as much as possible'.

We are delighted to help the resident and his friends & neighbours. And we thank him for his interest and work in making sure that our local democratic processes are as democratic as possible.

For anyone wishing to stand, nomination papers and further advice can be found on the Electoral Commission website at the following location:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-candidates-parish-council-elections-england/nominations/completing-your-nomination-papers>

Completed nominations need to be **hand-delivered** to the Returning Officer at Leeds Civic Hall between 10 – 4 from Fri 5 – Fri 12 January 2024 (not Sat or Sun).



Help your community - become a councillor

## Christmas Lights Competition



We acknowledge the joy that residents spread throughout the community by their wonderful efforts. More on Page 3

Emma & Dougie's House on Montagu Road Thank You



Best Wishes to Everyone Even Our Critics & the Wetherby Mafia



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What does the weather forecaster say to his partner every year?

**KNOCK KNOCK.**  
who's there?  
**PUDDING.**  
pudding who?



**PUDDING UP THE CHRISTMAS TREE!**

What do you get if you eat Xmas decorations?

Tinsillitus

On Xmas Eve we are guaranteed reindeer.

I have this incredible psychic ability to know what is inside a wrapped present.

I know, it's a gift.

Elon Musk has invited me round for Christmas Dinner. Bit awkward really as I think he has regrets about his X.

With reference to Kevin Sinfield's fundraising efforts for MND, thanks to Colin Sanderson for this

**Very proud to have just finished my 7th marathon in 7 days!**

**Or 'Snickers', as they are now called.**



WHAT'S A SNOWMAN'S FAVOURITE SONG?

'FREEZE A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW'

**Wetherby Town Council Meeting - Nov**

13/14 Councillors and 1 resident attended. Cllr Newcombe sent apologies. It lasted 1 hour 20 mins.

Communications & Events Officer, Helena Briden attended. Iona Taylor, Town Clerk took the minutes.

**Cllr Kazia Knight** is the Town Council's rep on the local Plastic Free Community Steering Group. *No explanation what this Group is or under what auspices.*

**The October newsletter** from Better Wetherby Partnership is noted. Two prominent members of this Company are Cllrs Lamb & Harrington. *The Wetherby Free Press continues to be ignored despite our email to each councillor and staff member after each edition. Bias, pure and simple.*

**The cancelled Bonfire event may be replaced by an event on '26 May 2023'.** *Think they mean 2024. Two Cllrs voted against this idea. Good to see opposing voices on an issue. Normally they always agree with each other - no dissent allowed. Refunds not mentioned.*

**New Chair of Communications Cttee:** cont'd on Page 6



**OPPOSING VOICES**

**Keep Informed Wetherby Facebook Pages**

As well as the excellent *Wetherby Free Press* Facebook page there is the *Wetherby Deserves Better* page too.

Both are edited entirely separately from the newsletter Follow & Don't get FOMO (Fear of Missing Out)



**Lucky Duck Food**

from  **CANCER RESEARCH UK** &  **TREASURES Toys**

**OPEN SUNDAYS**



only £1

The Free Press is distributed to supermarkets, dentists, dentists, cafes, pubs, Drs surgeries and posted to many shops and businesses in town.

**Thank You**

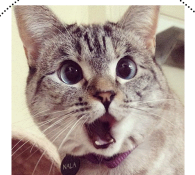
**Editor Responds to Online Slurs. Again!**

The Editor must again defend his reputation after another attempt at destroying it on social media. The accuser wants more people to come forward with examples of me harassing them to back up their belief that they have been harassed. Unbelievable but true. Trial by social media! And once more I am portrayed as somebody who has harassed at least one individual.

As we said in the last edition, I must be an obsessed, disturbed, deeply unhappy individual who makes people's lives miserable for no apparent reason and must have completely fooled his new wife (recently married), family, friends, neighbours, charity colleagues and 1000s of WFP readers into thinking he's a decent bloke.

If the contents of these posts are even half true, I must be the biggest hypocrite of all time, banging on about the truth and integrity all the time. If you want to believe these posts, that is up to you.

If you want a fuller picture, not the whole picture due to circumstances currently beyond my control, please go to page 5.



what?

# Christmas Lights Competition

The Editor got on his bike to find more cheery houses that brighten up these cold winter nights. Many streets and dwellings had nothing to indicate the festive period is with us (no judgement, just a fact) and others had plenty. Special 'Seasons Greetings' to the charming man coming out of Golden Fry Foods in his car who shouted "Put some lights on your bike, you d\*\*\*head". A trip to Specsavers is needed for you, Sir - I had flashing lights front and back in perfect working order!



**JOINT WINNER**  
Ainsty Road



*Special*  
  
for Ainsty Garth where most houses were lit up



## Kirk Deighton Lights Raise £100s for MIND



Five hundred pounds has been raised for the mental health charity **Mind**, in memory of a student from Kirk Deighton, at the annual Christmas Tree lights switch on, organised by volunteers at community group KD Events. **For the second year running over 200 people** enjoyed an evening of music, drinks and fun for the family, in conjunction with the team at the Bay



Horse pub. The celebrations started with a visit from Santa on his sleigh. There was also a chance to join in with Christmas carols with Wetherby Silver Band. **The first KD Events calendar also went on sale**, with 80 printed copies selling out on the night! Earlier this year the village played host to a photo competition with the 12 winning entries featuring in the A3 printed calendar. **Calendar sales and generous donations on the night** meant KD Events were able to give a substantial sum to Mind. The £500 donation was made in memory of Ethan Westerman, a keen cricketer and university journalism student from KD, who sadly passed away in November. **Chair of the events team, Guy Roberts, said "bringing people together is exactly what our team is all about.** Ever since we formed in the wake of the pandemic, our team of village volunteers strive to put on fantastic, fun community events. The lights switch on is a great example of this and to raise so much money in memory of Ethan is wonderful."  
**Visitors were also able to enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.** The Christmas tree was installed by Ed Simpson and sponsored by the team at the CUB modern nursery. A grant for the event was received from Kirk Deighton Parish Council.

Thanks to one generous supporter we can afford **3** to print many display issues for months to come



## X98/99 Route Change adds 5 minutes to journey

Following the criticism of Transdev from Andrew Batty in the last edition, we cannot fathom another of their decisions, and neither can one of their drivers.

The X98/99 in Leeds used to turn right into Byron Street and was soon in the city centre; there were never any hold ups going via Vicar Lane. Now they go straight on and get caught up with all the traffic at the lights under the A64 and the roundabout at the bottom of Eastgate.

The only possible reason for this is that the bus can use a bus stop on Eastgate (actually named Victoria). Totally unnecessary, as it can drop off perfectly well at any stop on Vicar Lane.

The Editor asked the driver and he said somebody sat in an office made this decision, despite drivers telling them it would cause delays. He is right - it adds at least 5 minutes to the trip.

Transdev is a company where its staff cannot even tell you who the person in charge is now. It used to be Alex Hornby, well known locally and nationally in the bus industry. Now there seems to be nobody taking responsibility. Let's hope standards do not drop as a result.

We wrote to Harrogate Bus Company (Transdev) after the last edition and got no response.



The X98 is not always a 'Sky Class' double-decker either.

## Connexions Buses: The 412 to York will run on 27 - 30 December but the 923 to Otley will not



Christmas Eve & New Years Eve - normal Sunday times, with last buses around 7pm.

On **X98 X99**, last buses are at 7.05pm from Leeds and 6.59pm from Deighton Bar.

Last buses on **the 7** are at 6.20pm to Harrogate to Wetherby and Leeds and 6.50pm from Leeds to Wetherby and

Harrogate. The journey leaving Harrogate at 7.20pm will finish at Wetherby.  
**Monday 25 December** no buses will run. **Monday 1 January** no buses will run.

### special timetable for Boxing Day

**X98**

26th Dec 2023 Boxing Day	<b>towards Leeds</b>	0905 1005 1105 1205 1305 1405 1505 1605 1705 0925 1025 1125 1225 1325 1425 1525 1625 1725 0937 1037 1137 1237 1337 1437 1537 1637 1737 0950 1050 1150 1250 1350 1450 1550 1650 1750 0956 1056 1156 1256 1356 1456 1556 1656 1756
	<b>towards Wetherby</b>	0905 1005 1105 1205 1305 1405 1505 1605 1705 0910 1010 1110 1210 1310 1410 1510 1610 1710 0924 1024 1124 1224 1324 1424 1524 1624 1724 0905 1005 1105 1205 1305 1405 1505 1605 1705

Leeds Boar Lane/Station D  
 Roundhay Road Cleodhow Wood  
 Red Hall Red Hall Lane  
 Collingham Old Star Garage  
 Wetherby bus station

Wetherby bus station  
 Collingham Old Star Garage  
 Red Hall Red Hall Lane  
 Leeds Boar Lane/Station D

### Dales Trip on Xmas & NY Eve

**874 to Bolton Abbey - Grassington - Buckden**

Wetherby Bus Sta 8.35  
 All stops to Leeds on A58

Available at Library

**£2 single**  
**£10 Rover Ticket**  
**£18 Family Buy on Bus**

FREE trip out for Elderly & other Passholders

@DalesBus

www.dalesbus.org

Winter Weekend DalesBus  
 Including full timetables for buses 59, 74, 75, 864, 873 & 874

## No Apology, No Accountability for Missing Bus Sta

Cllr Dean Buckle is Chair of the Welcome to Wetherby committee which produced the new Town leaflet. The map did not include the bus station and the leaflet had dark and dull images, which did not promote the great assets of our town in the best possible way.

**10. Visitor leaflet.**

It was **AGREED** that new leaflets are not to be reprinted until further notice. It was requested that the committee consider adding the location of the defibrillators and fire station, however the view was taken that these are not necessarily visitor attractions. The bus station will be added to future versions of the leaflet and map.

This box is what the minutes said. The leaflets are NOT to be reprinted. And somebody thinks the fire station deserves to be on the map.



This proves again that this Council are not open and honest with residents who pay the total cost for those leaflets. They are incapable of taking any responsibility, saying sorry and that they will try not to let it happen again.

Why are there no advertisers in the leaflet to help pay the costs? And why are they are NOT going to reprint it?

**Wetherby Deserves Better**

No acknowledgement of mistake, let alone a 'sorry' from Cllr Buckle



# Slurs on the Editor's Character and False Accusations on Social Media

Here is my response to the 40,000 members of Boston Spa Grumbler and Wetherby Grumbler Facebook groups. We publish it here in case members saw the accuser's post but not mine.

“ The Restraining Orders (RO) stop me from defending myself fully but here's a reminder of the facts and more clarification:

\* There are 2 Restraining Orders (RO) from the same case. They are exactly the same ROs but different senior management in the same publicly-funded organisation.

\* The RO was suggested by the prosecution, not myself, and was finally agreed after 2 hours of negotiation.

\* There was NO trial, NO evidence put forward by the prosecution, I have NO criminal record, I have NEVER caused harassment to anybody (writing emails and publishing facts and honest opinion will never be harassment in a free country), an RO is NOT an admission of guilt etc etc etc (see last edition of Free Press).

Intelligent Grumblers may be asking themselves these questions.

1 If the Hearing for the RO recently was 'in favour' of the accuser, why has it been rearranged for 24 Jan 2024? (Answer - it was simply postponed).

2 If the accuser had been subject to 6 years of harassment by Paul by July 2022, why did they not go to trial and prosecute Paul to the fullest extent of the law, instead of bargaining for an RO? (Answer – they had no evidence)

3 Why has the accuser raised the RO at all in public when it has not been broken? (Answer – a cynical, vindictive move to tempt me to break it)

4 Why has the accuser been asking for examples of harassment from other people for the Hearing? (Answer – sheer desperation because they have no evidence of any harassment themselves before or since July 2022).

5 Why has there not been one single example of 'harassment' produced to back up this claim of a 7 year campaign of harassment by Paul? (Answer - because it is nonsense).

6 Isn't Paul himself being harassed here? Especially when he cannot fully defend himself because of the RO? (Answer – yes, there is a strong case, I believe, awaiting response from West Yorkshire Police)

7 Isn't the author, in fact, inciting Paul to break the law with his posts? (Answer – Quite possibly, again awaiting response from West Yorks Police)

**As for real cases of harassment, you should always collect the evidence and go to the Police, not strangers.**

**I would like to ask for assistance too. I think there is plenty of evidence of defamation here. Please could any (retired) solicitors or libel lawyers contact me. Email: [WetherbyFreePress@pm.me](mailto:WetherbyFreePress@pm.me)**

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to the people who have written lovely messages of support, and one generous donor to WFP. 👍

Remember, the Truth will always come out in the end. 😊

For Info: Hearing for Application for the 2 ROs to be removed takes place at Leeds Mag Court on Wednesday 24th January 2024 @ 2pm. Don't know if public can attend. 🗨



Cllr Lamb is aware of many of the facts around this particular case so I asked him “Do you have any opinion on the smear campaign on social media aimed at me? As a Conservative, do you think it is fair that somebody is allowed to ask for evidence of crimes by a named person in order to help their own case (because they have no evidence themselves)?

Would you like it if I said you were a harasser and asked 40,000 people for other examples of your harassment on social media?”.

Cllr Lamb refused to address the issue in writing.



## This is Where Innocence & Guilt is Decided

Not on Social Media, Not by  
Police Officers &  
Not by (Public) Opinion

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Experience



NVQ Level 2  
Qualification

References available

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The 15 Wetherby Town Councillors are unpaid volunteers. Most are Conservative & raised our Council Tax precept by 80% in a cost-of-living crisis in 23/24, much of it to pay for new staff.

The Town Clerk is Iona Taylor

The new Assistant Clerk is Rowann Fitzpatrick

The new Communications Officer is Helena Briden

These 3 salaries alone cost about £100,000 per year.

There is also a Facilities Manager, Steve Cohen.

Added to this much work is contracted out.

Would anybody like to compare staff costs to those of the village councils, and comparable town councils?

There are still no images of staff on the Council's website (unlike Otley) and no diagram to show the line management structure.

The new Chair of the Communications Cttee is Cllr Connor Mulhall, right. According to the Council website, he is also Chair of 3 other Committees:

- Budget & Governance Committee
- Planning Committee
- Property Committee

£ No List of Monthly Expenditure in November's minutes. Why?

Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mulhall - a lot of responsibility on his shoulders



This young man certainly has a lot on his plate. As he did not come along to 'Meet the Editor', we looked on the Council website for his interests and experience. He is a member of the local Conservative Party and works for a Telecoms company is all it said. Let's hope he is able to oversee the desperately-needed new website and literature promoting the town. Time will tell whether these basic tools of showcasing Wetherby to the world will be of a high standard, like those in Otley. See this and last edition for comment of our poor new general leaflet for the town.

**'Bus Reform – Have Your Say' consultation by West Yorkshire Combined Authority.** Councillors were encouraged to reply to this consultation individually. It was AGREED that the council should consider responding to this consultation to show that it is aggrieved at the lack of bus services in this area and at the fact that Wetherby is often disregarded when decisions regarding public transport are made.

Wow! Buses have been mentioned. Why? Because there is a very POLITICAL move by the Labour mayor to take control of buses in West Yorkshire. The Conservatives are against this. Looks to us that councillors are being told to group-think when the minutes say they should be 'aggrieved at the lack of bus services'. There is no detail - where is the 'lack'? We all know about York but that is mostly North Yorkshire. Why not be specific and say 'last buses are too early, the 7 should be half-hourly, we should have a Saturday service on the 923 to Otley'? We would like to see the evidence for the premise that Wetherby is 'often disregarded'. We think Metro/WYCA is simply incompetent everywhere, not just Wetherby - see evidence in Transport News on next page.

**CRIME: There were 16 incidents of anti-social behaviour and 143 other crimes in October.** Still no comparison to previous month or year. What is the point of telling us these figures without context? In fact there is a large increase from September's figures. Double the anti-social and 47 more other crimes! No comment about this from any councillor. Do they ask any questions at these meetings?



WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL - DRAFT STRATEGY

## The Draft Mission Statement:

Wetherby Town Council will be an efficient council working to make Wetherby a fair, inclusive and high quality sustainable place to live and work and will strive to maintain and enhance its character as a genuine market town.

*No Mention of Standards, Communication or Accountability - just 'Efficient'* 😏

The next Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting will be on Tues 2 January at the Methodist Church at 6.30pm

**Staffing Meeting on 30 Oct** - it lasted 21 minutes. A member of staff has resigned. Seriously? Why do they not state who it is? Is it confidential, poor communication or they just don't want to?

**Staffing Meeting on 4 Dec** - "Correspondence - An item of correspondence was considered, with an alternative course of action AGREED, to be instigated by the Clerk as soon as possible."

Wow! Figure that one out if you can - riddles at WTC.

**Property Committee on 6 Nov** - Fire damage and anti-social behaviour in Scaur Park 'is estimated to cost over **£2000 to fix.**'

**From Correspondence: The 2 cameras on Wetherby Town Hall** do not work. It would cost £2,500 to replace both including labour charges, and the ongoing annual service and maintenance charges would be £2650 per camera per year. Leeds City



Council propose the following:

- ⇒ Town Council cover 70% of the replacement costs and ongoing annual service charge as they have the additional benefit of the building being protected
- ⇒ City Councillors pick up 30% of the replacement costs and annual service charge I will arrange for the £10k spend for the fibre upgrade as part of the fibre upgrade programme

If not replaced, the cameras will have to come down. They would have not even a deterrent effect in that case.

**Mayor/Metro/WYCA want to Control Buses. How are they doing in their current job?**

**1. No Bus Map on Display in Leeds Bus Sta**



Unlike Sheffield where Visitors & Residents can immediately see basic, invaluable information, especially when the Travel Office is shut

**2. Leaking Leeds Bus Station**



Their flagship Bus Station has been leaking for years. How much money is spent on this every year without it being fixed?

**3. No Lockers in Leeds Bus Station**



You'll find these very useful things all over Germany & Switzerland. Disappeared many years ago here and not replaced.

**4. No Ticket Machine at Leeds Bradford Airport**



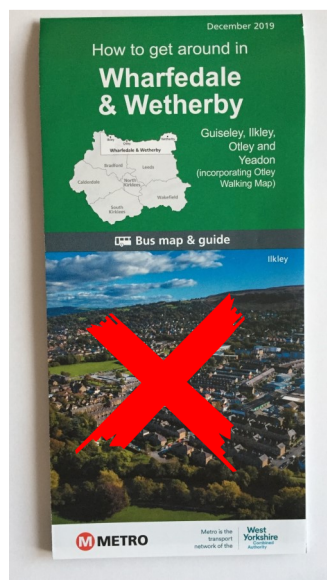
Unlike this tiny airport in Poznan, Poland. Avoids queues, driver questions and delays

**5. The Wetherby Bus Stop Fiasco**



In 2021, we reported on Metro's incompetence installing these new flags with wrong information on. Tiny writing too.

**6 Stopped Printing Invaluable Area Maps**



*This is Ben Still, Chief Executive of West Yorkshire Combined Authority. His salary is about £200,000. He is ultimately responsible for the work of his staff. He is rarely on TV to account for his organisation. We write to him - never any response.*



*This is Tracy Brabin, Labour Mayor of West Yorkshire and Chair of WYCA. Her salary is about £100,000. She is ultimately responsible for the performance of Metro / WYCA. She is always on TV. We write to her - never any response.*

Cllr Stables told the Police and they said: "The police would look at vehicles which are causing an obstruction but it does have to be proportionate and as a general rule these would be vehicles which have been left in a dangerous position rather than just simply causing an obstruction."

*In other words, they simply aren't interested unless someone is in danger. If somebody threatened to smash the offending vehicle up, we are sure they would come! It doesn't matter to them if no buses run from Wetherby for hours, causing misery for many 100s.*

Penny continues that she has 'emailed the Parking Enforcement Manager to ask him if he can give extra resource to this area and target Castlegate, to try to deter people from parking here.'

*We thank Cllr Stables for her efforts. But cannot understand why the 2 Conservative Councillors (Lamb & Harrington) are apparently not doing anything when they both regularly meet with the Police & bus companies. Why won't they put anything down in writing to us?*

The driver of the car was Anna Archer. On a bus company Facebook page she said she 'was deeply apologetic to the driver for my mistake' and claimed she parked for '20 - 30 minutes'. *There were 4 buses waiting for her to return but only one apology. The Editor was on one of those buses and waited an hour before she returned, not 20 - 30 minutes. But she did seem genuinely sorry until .....*

In response to tweets about the car's tax status Anna writes "would love to see what the police would do about my car which is on trade insurance and tax, there are more pressing matters in the world than someone parking on double yellow lines - get a life".

She also states "And guess what? The car is still on my drive, on trade plates and I still have my job, and no the police have not come after me (laughing emoji)".

## Wetherby Foodbank

### Our Wish List for December...

**We have just ONE wish this December: if you need help or are struggling to afford food this month, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH!**

Anyone can call in to one of our sessions. They run in Wetherby and Tadcaster.

In Wetherby you'll find us at the Barleyfields Community Centre, Barleyfields Road on Tuesday, Friday & Saturday mornings 10am - 11:30am

In Tadcaster you'll find us at The Barn Community Centre, St Joseph's Street on Monday afternoons 2pm - 3:30pm.

PLEASE SHARE! You never know who may need this info.

Thank you!



## Wetherby News Local

### NEWSWATCH

THIS IS WHY WE ARE NEEDED. We are recording the number of **general** news items about Wetherby / Boston Spa & villages. And the no. of letters from residents about the area in the published paper, now £2.10.

We do this in the hope they will wake up and take up some of our stories. Nothing so far. They are ignoring the serious issues in our great town and do not deserve to have 'Wetherby' in their title.

Issue of 7 Dec '23

**News Items - 1 Letters - 0**

A press release from a local charity.

They should call themselves the Wetherby Charity News as their only 'news' item is often a charity press release.

Issue of 14 Dec '23

**News Items - 1 Letters - 0**

Plans for 130 new houses on Sandbeck Estate.

They have had **one story maximum** per issue about Wetherby & area for the last few months!

**Wetherby Deserves Better!**

## Wildlife of Wetherby

**The Canada goose** is our most familiar goose, although it is not actually native to the UK. A common and bold bird, it can be found around most parks, lakes, reservoirs and gravel pits.

There are over 150,000 throughout the UK and can be seen all year round.

Their diet is vegetation - roots, grass, leaves and seeds. They live for about 6 years.

Canada Geese are a familiar sight in the skies as they noisily move in flocks, in a V formation.

Since 1957 a Canadian company has used their name for their upmarket coats & jackets sold in Harrods and Selfridges.



Ahhhh!



Paul Kirby



# Alec Shelbrooke - What Does our Conservative MP Think?

Space for Alec (basic salary of £86.5K) to talk to Residents

Nothing received since we began 2 years ago

Unedited, max 400 words

alec.shelbrooke.mp@parliament.uk / alec@wetherbyandeasingwold.co.uk



10 years ago. In the days when the Wetherby News had more than one story and Alec would engage with the Editor for the benefit of residents.



17,200 Followers. Tweets about Wetherby Issues in December up to 14th: \* 1 Dec - Raises point in Commons about Labour-led City Council proposing parking charges \* 4 Dec - Street surgery outside Town Hall \* 6 Dec - Attended Methodist Xmas Fayre \*



2,900 Followers. Facebook has the same content as the Twitter feed. Wetherby Methodist Church commented "It would be good to see you at the Christmas Tree Festival this weekend in Boston Spa Methodist Church". Alec did not respond.

We elect our MPs on what they think, say and do. Surely we can expect to know what they think on the major issues of the day. Alec will not tell our readers what's on his mind so we have looked on social media for Alec's views. We could not find the answers to the most basic of questions. For example:

*Is he sorry for the government's failings highlighted in the Covid Inquiry (former Ministers have apologised)?*

*What are his thoughts on Rishi Sunak's Rwanda bill?*

Alec has periods of being high profile on the media, especially TV. He was often on the minority news channels, like GB News supporting Liz Truss for a while. Then nothing for months.



Results from Google Search 'Alec Shelbrooke' in 'News' for last month, excluding lists of Commons votes. Just one:

Daily Telegraph + 3 other papers: "A host of Conservative MPs have written to the deputy prime minister urging him to use national security powers to review the potential sale of the Daily Telegraph."

## Parking Charges Survey

### Introduction of Car Park Charges to Wetherby: Consultation

If you would like to complete this form online, please visit [www.leeds.gov.uk/wetherbyparking](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/wetherbyparking) or scan the QR code.



#### Introduction

Leeds City Council is proposing the introduction of modest car parking charges at the Wilderness and Station Gardens car parks in Wetherby.

We are consulting on these proposals because we are keen to understand the views of Wetherby residents and other users of the car parks.

#### Instructions

It should take you about 5 to 7 minutes to answer all the questions. The last day that you can respond is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

3) The prices proposed, including a 15p transaction fee, are as follows:

#### Wilderness Car Park

Charging hours Monday – Saturday 8am – 6pm

Up to 1 hour free, after that

Up to 1 hour 65p

Up to 2 hours £1.15

Up to 3 hours £1.65

Up to 4 hours £2.15

Up to 5 hours £2.65

Up to 6 hours £3.15

Up to 7 hours £3.65 (daily maximum charge)

Weekly ticket £12.15

#### Station Gardens Car Park

Charging hours Monday – Saturday 8am – 6pm

Up to 3 hours free

£2.15 daily charge after that

Weekly ticket £10.15

## Pointless Emails Sent to Deter Us

In Issue 53 we highlighted an email from the head of a Wetherby organisation that said he did not want him, his family or his organisation mentioned in the WFP. If we do, he will pass it on to his 'legal team'.

We have been sent a similar email from an individual and business that has featured in our newsletter. It's as if the



Wetherby Mafia has contacted them and told them what to say so that charges can be brought at a later date on a ludicrous charge of harassment.

These gullible people have fallen for this pathetic attempt at censorship. Fear is being used as a weapon against us,

shown by the man mentioning his family!

The Editor can assure these people and anyone else that if you have the word 'Wetherby' in your title, or if you appear on local media supporting any cause related to the town, then you can expect praise or criticism.

WE LIVE IN A FREE COUNTRY where FREE SPEECH IS ALLOWED. If you don't want people to have this basic right, you would clearly prefer to live in Russia or N Korea.

We are not vindictive so will not name these individuals & organisations now but we will continue to report on them without fear or favour.

Remember, we print if it's \* True \* Honest Opinion \* In Public Interest \* (Otherwise you can sue for libel).

And we will find out who the Wetherby Mafia are and make them accountable for their actions.

A £5 donation helps us keep a visual 9 presence in the town - thank you



Fantastic results in November were followed by 2 wins at the start of December; a 3 - 2 win at home to Middlesbrough and a 2 - 0 win at Blackburn Rovers.

A big fan of the 'Boro, Yorkshire Post illustrator Graeme Bandeira, was excited to visit Elland Road so we were interested in finding out if it was as scary as it used to be for away fans. We are pleased to say it isn't. Graeme told us that he was treated fine but the "concourse isn't fit for purpose".

With 6 wins in the last 7, a midweek match at Sunderland was the next test for Leeds. Goalie Meslier made an outstanding save to keep the teams level in a tight match. The only difference between the 2 teams was a simple goal by the Wearsiders in the 80th minute. Joy for their caretaker manager in only his second game in charge. United are in a great position heading into the festive period, and on TV all over Christmas.



Superb performance by Meslier in 1 - 0 defeat

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 - Leicester	21	17	1	3	27	52
2 - Ipswich	21	16	3	2	19	51
3 - Leeds	21	12	5	4	15	41
4 - Southampton	21	11	6	4	4	39
5 - West Brom	21	10	5	6	12	35
6 - Sunderland	21	10	3	8	9	33
7 - Hull	21	9	6	6	4	33
8 - Preston	21	9	5	7	-6	32
9 - Blackburn	21	10	1	10	0	31
10 - Cardiff	21	9	3	9	4	30
11 - Norwich	21	9	3	9	0	30
12 - Watford	21	7	7	7	4	28
13 - Middlesbrough	21	8	3	10	-1	27

as at 15 Dec



A Good Experience for Local Boro Fan



## FESTIVE FIXTURES

- Utd v Coventry City on Sat 16 Dec at 15.00
- Utd v Ipswich Town Sat 23 Dec at 12.30 **sky sports**
- Preston v Utd on Tues 26 Dec at 12.30 **sky sports**
- West Brom v Utd on Fri 29 Dec at 20.15 **sky sports**
- Utd v Birmingham City on Mon 1 Jan at 15.00
- Peterborough v Utd on Sun 7 Jan at 14.00 FA Cup

### Your Community Newsletter Editor: Paul Kirby

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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 can be seen as harassment*

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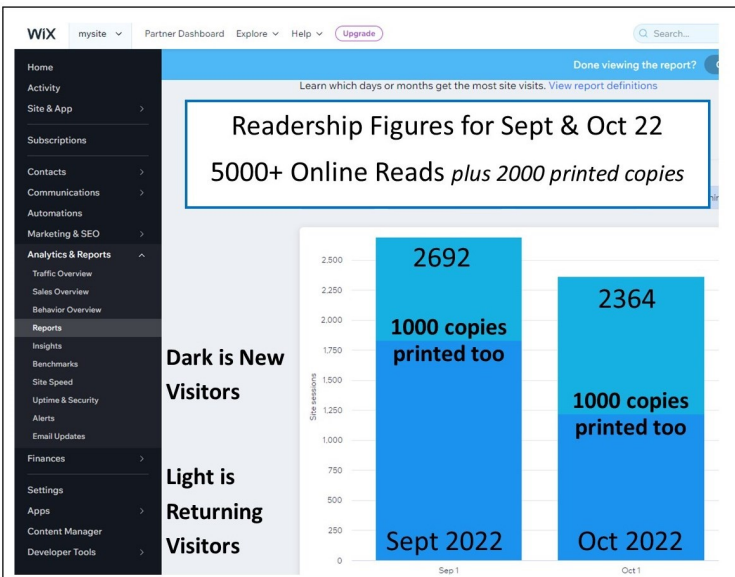


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They are surprisingly good figures. The main reason was our exclusive on Wetherspoons buying Sant Angelo. If you don't believe the figures, we can send you a printscreen image.

**In 2022 we Supported 25 Local Organisations & Charities**

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**Let's Make Wetherby Better Together in 2024**