



Quality Citizen Journalism

WETHERBY

ISSUE 84 until Nov 2025

Free Press

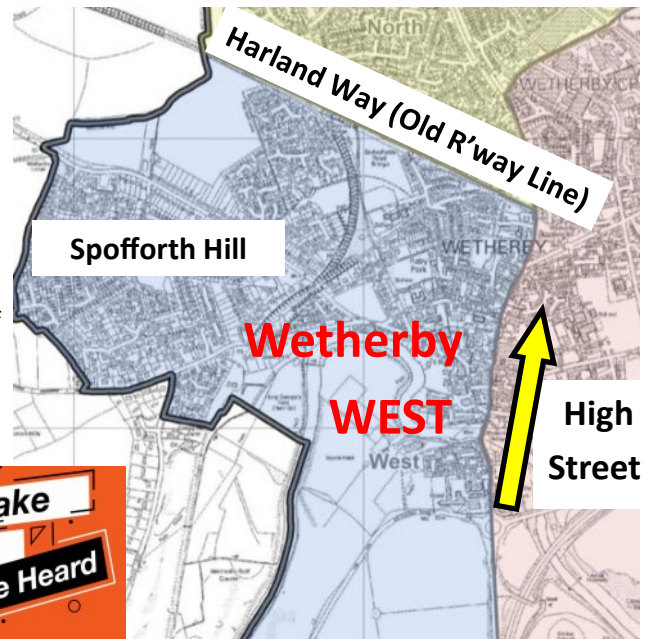
Est 2021 Facts & Integrity

Election Goes Ahead - It Will Cost £10,000+ so Plse Vote

Conservative David Frame resigned from *Wetherby Town Council* for an undisclosed reason, leaving a vacancy in West Wetherby. The Town Council misled 1000s on social media by saying it was Wetherby North. Despite this error, which no Councillor or staff member noticed, the residents made it clear that they want to choose their councillor, not the one party-dominated Town Council. More than ten residents wrote to request an election. Sadly, democracy costs money, and it will take at least £10K out of the



town's coffers. The candidates had to nominate themselves by Fri 17 Oct. It is hoped that there will be a choice of candidates from all parties. As we prove in this newsletter time after time (see page 8), this Council is political so you should vote on that basis. It is a great shame that it is like that, as there should be no politics at this level of local government. If you live in Wetherby West, see map, and if are not registered to vote, you must apply by Tues 28 Oct - contact Town Hall or Leeds City Council for info.



Election on **Thurs 13 Nov**

Please vote. A small group of like-minded people are responsible for spending over £600,000 of our money, half of it on staff.



More Local News

Parking Problems - Our Offer to Charity Shop Volunteers
Page 4

(Another) Council Employee Quits Page 6



Wetherby & B Spa not mentioned once in Leeds Visitor Guide (but Otley & Harrogate! are promoted)
Page 5



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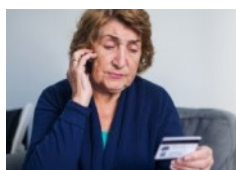
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Thank You to our 1000s of Readers

Please send your News, Views & Events to:
WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Don't Miss Out - Join our Large Mailing List by emailing: WetherbyFreePress@PM.me

Our Campaign continues



Offline and Overlooked

We Don't Forget the many 1000s of people who are offline - those who do not have (or want) internet access or a smartphone.

We ask all organisations to include a phone no. and put information on PAPER eg leaflets

Age UK have a similar campaign. Surprisingly, there are no Age UK shops in Boston Spa or Wetherby.



* English puns make me feel numb. But maths puns make me feel number.

* What do we want!? HEARING AIDS!!! When do we want them!? HEARING AIDS!!!

* What did the alligator say to the bee? See ya later pollinator

* Marriage is like a grenade. Remove the ring and your house is gone.

* Why did my son put his iPhone in the blender? He wanted Apple juice.

* If the weather can't be nice for more than two days in a row then why should I?



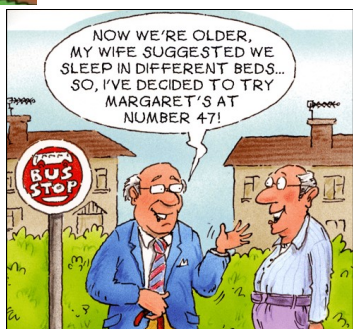
* My American friend calls it an elevator, but I call it a lift. I guess we were just raised differently.

* What's the difference between a jeweller and a jailer? One sells

watches and the other watches cells.

* I'm sorry for all the poor quality margarine jokes I've told recently. I promise to do butter next time.

More funnies on back page



As well as the Wetherby Free Press page on [facebook](#) there's the Wetherby Deserves Better page too.

Both are independently run from the newsletter.



Follow & Don't Get



Next Wetherby Town Council Mtg

Tues 11 Nov at 7pm

www.wetherbytowncouncil.gov.uk

If you go, please tell us your views on it.



Wetherby Town Council - Pages 8 & 9

The Chair of each meeting is identified in minutes for two Cttes but not in four others.

New Labour Councillor Nicholson joins 3 committees

Market Mistake - Market Operators booked on same weekend despite 'being informed this would not occur'

Market Disagreement - over £750 fee for Continental Market



Cllr Matthew Nicholson

WHO WAS NAUGHTY



Mystery 'Group' held event on Council Land without permission - not stated who or where.

Benches not memorial or in Wetherby style (whatever that is) that Ctte had 'originally sought'. Cost £354 each to refurbish.

Charity Ball tickets at Rudding Park to cost £100 each



New Laptop for new Town Clerk cost £900

Planning minutes say Chair was absent and present!

Present: Councillor Bradley
Councillor knight
Councillor Moss
Councillor Payne (Chair)

It was **RESOLVED** that apologies be received, and reasons for absence accepted, from Councillor Payne.

VAT for new boiler 'was not taken into account'. No figure provided

One meeting (Welcome to Wetherby) lasted 3.5 hours. If true that must be a record. We don't believe it.

The above shows examples of poor minuting and checking of those minutes by Councillors. More in previous issues & page 9.



Brass Bands on Sundays ended on 28 Sept

Progress on Bus Blocking

Cllr Penny Stables (Green) has informed us of some hopeful news. She says: "Good news re Castlegate. The traffic regulation order is currently going through the system, but the **no stopping at any time regulation should be put in place on Castlegate in October / November**. This should prevent buses being blocked".



Let's hope it does. We thank Penny but wonder why no Town / City Councillor or Metro / WYCA staff or Council staff has put any temporary measure in place, like official cones, or A3 laminates on the empty premises opposite the exit in the last 4 years!

Misleading Info in North Wetherby

A reader tells us:

"The new timetable has at last been displayed at Aire Road, and I assume other nearby stops.

However, it indicates that the X98/X99 is only travelling to Deighton Bar - two minutes away. Whilst this is the current physical route terminus, the bus is in fact on the way to Leeds at this point via Deighton Bar. There is no mention on the timetable of the critical fact that buses depart for Leeds, although the bus stop flag does include Leeds, creating more possible confusion.

The timings at the bus stop are broadly correct, although the timetables published on the *Go-Ahead* website show departures one minute earlier than those shown on the bus stop.

Seriously incorrect information was also displayed on a previous change and it took an inordinate amount of time to accept and correct it."

Metro / WYCA are responsible for bus stops, not the bus companies. The passenger says that Cllr Lamb, Board Member, is looking into the issue. We will report on his actions, if any.



Timetables Re-Printed

The times of the X98 /99 to Leeds haven't changed

but mistakes have been corrected in a reprint. The Editor had pointed out that it did not stop at the 'bus station' as stated, and that East

Keswick should come after Oakwood on the front. They're now available on the buses and in Wetherby library. The library had no supply so the Editor took some off the buses and put them on display.

This is another example of the Editor / Free Press benefiting the community, instead of just criticising, as some would have you believe. We also put official cones out to temporarily prevent bus blocking on Castle Gate, see left. Simple obvious actions that are all too rare from our local councillors.



We have written to Cllr Lamb (Con) about several bus issues that we have covered this year. It was a long list because there had been no information provided or progress. Cllr Lamb says he does not have time to read the *Free Press*. It's a shame he does not take time out from taking part in discussions on social media and read a serious news source for the area. Cllr Lamb refuses to copy us in to any of his emails to officials, even regarding uncontroversial matters.

Included in the list is the vulnerable no 8 bus to Knaresborough. We await to find out if he does anything to promote this bus which passes the pub he runs in Kirk Deighton. The phone box 'community hub' outside his business has no timetables, so we hope he does something to promote it. It would show he does really care about buses. Cllr Lamb says he will respond to the email.

Metro/WYCA took over a week to update X98/99 timetables at bus stops. More evidence for why they are the worst transport authority in England (fact - see below).

Reminder of Bus Facts for Councillors & MP, Alec Shelbrooke

- ◇ Before Oct 2025 non-car owners subsidised motorists through Council Tax to maintain free car parks
 - ◇ Costs £4 return to Knaresborough, £5 return to Leeds, Otley, York & Garforth and £6 return to Harrogate on the 7
 - ◇ *Harrogate Bus Co's* route 7 to Harrogate & Leeds via B Spa was reduced to hourly from half-hourly in Nov '22
 - ◇ *Harrogate Bus Co* cut the 11.30pm bus on route 7 from Harrogate in Nov '22. Last bus now 10.20pm (but 12.25am to K'boro)
 - ◇ NO WEEKEND service to York (*Connexion's* route 412) or Otley (*Connexion's* route 923) since May 22
 - ◇ *WYCA/Metro* made a big mess in Wetherby of installing new bus stop flags in 2021. Half the stops are still the old type
 - ◇ Their 7 invaluable bus guide network maps are online only. The Wharfedale one is not even displayed at W'by Bus Sta.
- The Labour Mayor Tracy Brabin is ultimately responsible for *WYCA / Metro* performance. They will have more staff and power when franchising comes in. They were the worst performing local transport authority in a national survey in both 2023 & 2024. Opinion based on above facts and many others: *Metro / WYCA* are a large bureaucracy with low standards and a poor record. Cllr Alan Lamb is an influential board member so please contact him, and us, about any bus issue - alan.lamb@leeds.gov.uk

Offer of Free Lift for Charity Workers affected by New Parking Charges



Calling All Charity Volunteers

If you cannot afford to park because of the new charges, and have tried all other options to get a lift then:

**** the Free Press will organise a FREE LIFT to your charity shop and home again ****

One of the main reasons stated for opposing the new charges in the Wilderness car park was that many charity workers would have to give up their voluntary role in our numerous charity shops. This was often mentioned by Councillors, particularly Cllr Lamb.

Whether or not this is a valid reason to justify non-car owners continuing to subsidise motorists is a different point (car parks cost money to maintain). We have not seen the possible alternatives to help these good people publicised in anti-charging campaign press releases or posts on social media.

We suggest that they:

- 1) ask friends or neighbours to give you a lift - Wetherby has a great community spirit
- 2) ask for help on Wetherby Facebook groups; there may be car sharing opportunities
- 3) if over-60, and many are, use the transport service run by publicly-subsidised *Wetherby in Support of the Elderly (WISE)*

We look for solutions to problems. So, if you're unsuccessful with 1 - 3, we would be delighted to give you a lift. Contact details on last page.

Of course, if nobody requests our services, we can safely assume this 'reason' was indeed a red herring, and was not the large problem it was claimed to be. It could just be part of a poor effort by other individuals to try and avoid paying a little extra compared to the costly business of running a car.



LIKE TURKEYS VOTING FOR CHRISTMAS

It's amusing to think that a survey basically asking 'would you like to pay for something you haven't paid for before?' would give you anything other than a predictable result ie close to 100% saying 'no'. Yet it's a pretty fundamental principle in life - if you use it, you should pay for it. But not in this case, it seems - Wetherby is a special case. However, we will miss visitors coming up to us and asking where the machine is to pay - it was lovely to see the look on the faces when we told them it was free.

We have asked Cllr Lamb to provide evidence of a large downturn in sales from 3 shops, as a result of the charges. In 6 months the results should be in.

Any opposing views, please write in and we will print it without edit or comment.



Wetherby News

NEWSWATCH

The Local

18 Sep 1 News Items. 0 Letters

Young actors star in movie.

25 Sep 1 News Item. 0 Letters

Thorpe Arch company helped by WY Combined Authority

2 Oct NO NEWS ITEMS. 0 Letters

9 Oct & 16 Oct 4 News Item. 1 Letter

Martin House raises £360K, classic car event, property development at Bramham House, press release from Stockeld Park for Halloween

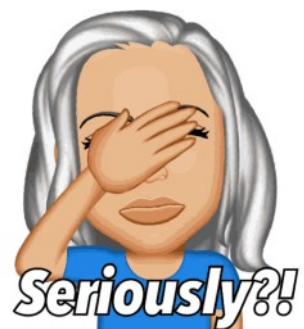
It's amusing that we were criticised recently in a Steve Cooper social media post for being a one-man band (which isn't true). If he reads the majority of Wetherby News papers in the last 6 months, he will find nearly all news stories are written by one person, the Editor, Graham Chalmers. That group of local newspapers even publish articles written by our Council Comms Officer. Independent, critical reporting?



Just 6 news items (mostly press releases) about Wetherby, Boston

Spa, Clifford, Bramham, Collingham, Linton, East Keswick, Thorner, Spofforth, Clifford or Kirk Deighton in 5 editions .

Disgraceful!
Total cost £11



Why isn't Wetherby or Boston Spa Featured in Leeds Visitor Guide when Otley & Ilkley (& Harrogate!) Are?



This publication is produced annually by *Visit Leeds*, which is funded by *Leeds City Council* and *WYCA (Mayor of West Yorks)* ie our Council Tax.

In their 'Day Trips from Leeds' section, image above, they feature Ilkley, Otley and even Wakefield! But not Boston Spa or Wetherby.

Indeed, it does not mention our towns or villages anywhere in the brochure, not even in the 'Green Spaces' section. No mention of the *Wetherby's Arts Festival* either.

At least it does promote getting to places by bus, but no details about routes to our communities.

Bizarre that they would promote Harrogate and Wakefield more than their own surrounding towns. Those places have their own marketing organisations like 'Visit Harrogate'.

It just shows what a low profile Wetherby has. This brochure, see images, was published earlier in the year and nobody in that committee mentioned it in any meeting ie they have not even noticed this lost opportunity for promoting our town. On the ball? We think not.

It provides more evidence that our 'Welcome to Wetherby' Town Council Ctte, chaired by Cllr Dean Buckle, pictured left, is not doing a good job. Proof in many previous editions of the Free Press, to be summarised in next edition.

Cllr Harrington is both a Wetherby Town Councillor and a Leeds City Councillor and Cllr Lamb (Con) is a Leeds City Councillor and on the board of WYCA.

You would hope that they noticed this and tried to persuade *Visit Leeds* to add at least one of our communities - Boston Spa or Wetherby.

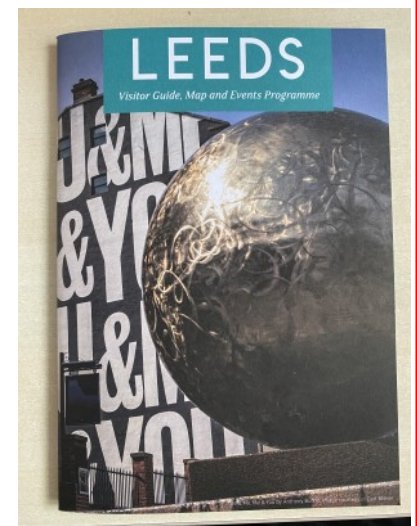
We asked them if they did.



Only Cllr Lamb responded with:

"Here's my comment;

Why don't you join the volunteers on *Welcome to Wetherby* and help them by doing something constructive instead of criticising them? I wasn't aware of this visitor guide. Now that I am, I will challenge why Wetherby is not featured as Cllr Harrington and I did when WYCA twice forgot to include Wetherby on their public transport maps. Many thanks."



The Editor responded:

"Alan,

If you read the *Wetherby Free Press*, you would see I do plenty for the community, including keeping them informed of the very low standards of some of our representatives. *Welcome to Wetherby* have ignored every one of our suggestions in 4 years so why should I waste my time approaching them now when they clearly want nothing to do with me?

Please remind me of your actions when your Conservative colleague Cllr Buckle MISSED OUT the town's bus station on the Town Council's 'Welcome to Wetherby' leaflet.

Incidentally, if I remember correctly, *Metro* / WYCA produced a frequent service map which obviously Wetherby is not part of. That is why the town was not included. We made no fuss about it because it was not appropriate, and as you know, we are no fans of WYCA. You seem to focus on trivial things and not the issues that really matter, like those I listed in my email of 18 Sept. I look forward to your response to that.

It is our view that Cllr Buckle's *Welcome to Wetherby* committee lets the whole town down with its poor performance. He has NOT responded once to any of our suggestions over 4 years to improve our town's profile. Disgraceful behaviour and still no proof he uses email. Perhaps he could prove me wrong by responding to this. And he could explain why he and his committee did not notice Wetherby not included in the 'Visit Leeds' brochure.

Please keep us informed of the response you receive from *Visit Leeds*, WYCA, Leeds City Council about the omission of Wetherby in this brochure.

Kind Regards"

In his next email Cllr Lamb claimed that *Welcome to Wetherby* was doing 'an excellent job'.

A strong statement to make, especially when there is

much evidence to the contrary. In the next issue of *WFP*, we will report on the evidence Cllr Lamb provided to back up his opinion. We will provide all the evidence that they are doing a poor job. Cllr Buckle, right, was copied in to all the above emails. We were shocked when he wrote to us for the first time in 4 years. Read his response in defence of himself and his committee in the next issue too.

To be continued...

“Excellent job”



Cllr Dean Buckle, Chair of *Welcome to Wetherby*

Another Staff Member Quits - No Details from Council



Cllr Norma Harrington (Con)
Extremely unhelpful

Recruiting staff is an expensive business costing us a lot of money. It is happening far more than you would expect at a Town Council. Happy staff do not want to move jobs. Are they fed up with their management and Councillors? At least one was. Wetherby Town Council spends over £300,000 on staff annually. **We have pointed out for months now that the current Facilities Officer is being delegated more and more powers of responsibility. Why? Because the previous experienced 'Manager' post was downgraded to 'Officer'.**

We asked Cllr Harrington, Chair of Staffing Ctte about this vacancy and assumed it was a new post. She simply said "There are no additional staff being recruited" with no additional information. Why is she unable to tell us basic facts ie that somebody has resigned in this case?

If nobody extra is being recruited, then we must assume that somebody has resigned. Otherwise we would have TWO Facilities Officers, and it is obvious why Cllr Harrington would want to keep this from the public. It would be highly embarrassing to employ 2 staff to do the job of one previously, costing us more.

We asked for more details to clarify the situation and Cllr Harrington told us that

yes, somebody has resigned but did not say who or which job they had! Yet again she is extremely unhelpful and shows disrespect to a resident and our readers.

Possible Reasons for Why Our Council Tax is So High - Large Turnover of Staff & Inexperienced Staff dealing with Contracts?

A couple of years ago the Council employed a Facilities Manager who was highly qualified and experienced. He had an assistant which was a caretaker/ handyman role.

They undertook numerous tasks together, whether that was inspections or conversations with contractors.

The post of assistant had a high turnover rate, possibly because expertise could not be passed on. It is claimed it was not encouraged by the Staffing Committee as they have little experience of how the industry works.

The Facilities Manager resigned because of his dissatisfaction with management and Councillor behaviour he witnessed. The Council then decided to replace him with a Facilities Officer who was much less qualified and experienced.

As a result, the Council is relying largely on outside contractors / surveyors at a massive cost. These contractors write their own reports and quotes, which cannot not be scrutinised adequately, as nobody is qualified to do it.

A former caretaker claims that a culture has developed of not properly dealing with health and safety breaches. Looking after public buildings is a complicated, serious business and there is great concern that should anything happen to injure a member of the public/staff, the Council will be liable to a huge claim.

If that does happen, it will be us, the public, who would pay in an even higher Council Tax precept. You have been warned.

Cllr Harrington has a right to reply, which will be printed unedited in full.



Blurred image on Council website - tiny file of 30KB!

Poor



Why Can't Wetherby Support a Single Discount Store?

When Otley & Garforth Both Have 3



Only Discount Shop now closed.
Town too posh?

We all love a 'cheapy shop' as we call them, like Yorkshire Trading Co & Home Bargains. Town centres need a variety of shops to thrive. The obvious conclusion is that Wetherby is too posh. Other towns like Otley have three, as well as a thriving market 3 times a week. We are struggling with a market one day a week. It must be said that many thought the Factory Shop was not particularly cheap.



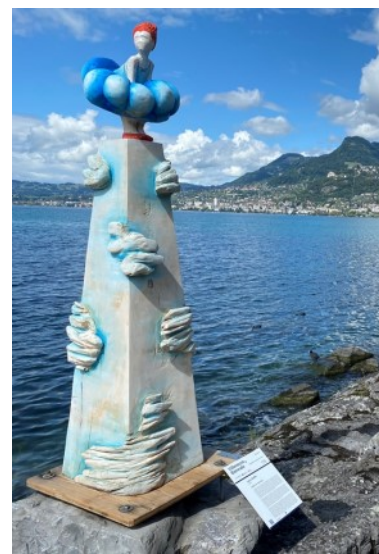
This one in Garforth, plus an Original Factory Shop and Home Bargains

Campaign to Brighten up Wetherby Continues

Why has there been no new pieces of art or sculptures here in the last 20 years? Have we no creativity or imagination?

The towns next to Lake Geneva in Switzerland do not really need anything to make them more beautiful or interesting. But Switzerland is a country where they like to express themselves and most places have pieces of art to admire.

In Villeneuve they have a permanent display. They do it for themselves and to attract visitors. Shame we can't do the same.



Wetherby still has no displays about wildlife, like the one above. Mark Barrow, local underwater cameraman, wants the public to be more



educated about the River Wharfe but the Town Council aren't interested in doing something so obvious and relatively cheap to achieve his wish.

Surely there is somebody with artistic talent who lives in our area. We would love them to produce something similar to the examples here.

Artists - the first place to get advice on what is possible would be Wetherby Town Council (and its Welcome to Wetherby Cttee, Chair Cllr Dean Buckle). Please make your suggestions to them, and keep us informed.



**WETHERBY
ECO ENERGY FAIR**
**SATURDAY
8TH NOVEMBER
10AM - 2PM
ST. JAMES CHURCH CENTRE**

- ✓ Home Energy Workshop
- ✓ Inspirational speakers on:
 - Local Community Energy
 - Climate Change, what does it all mean?
 - Solar PV and battery storage
- ✓ free entry, everyone welcome
- ✓ craft thrift sale. Refreshments.



tinyurl.com/ecoenergyfair



Tickets are now on sale for David Attenboroughs 'Ocean' film showing at Wetherby Cinema on **Monday 10th November**.

Have your say on a free daily energy allowance, WYCA's 2026 budget and farming sludge.

We also share the usual opportunities to learn, watch, cook & read.

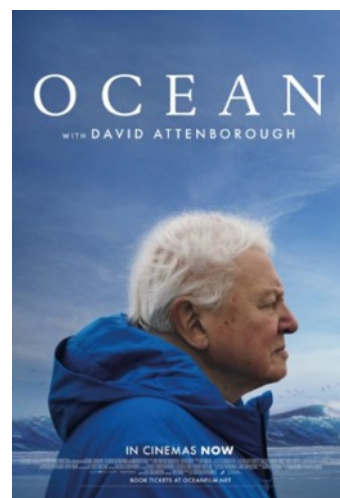
All this and more in October's newsletter at:

www.bostongreengroup.co.uk

Adrian Balcombe Chair

adrian.balcombe@bostongreengroup.co.uk

Boston Spa, Wetherby and Villages Community Green Group is non-politically affiliated and is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Registered Charity Number 1204438).



Wetherby Town Council - Dominated by Conservatives

Councillors who are not featured elsewhere in this Issue



Harry Chapman
Conservative



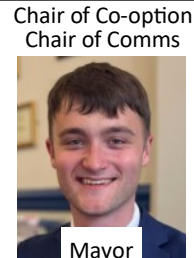
Elaine Smith
Conservative



Alex Riddell
Labour



Neil O'Byrne
Conservative



Connor Mulhall
Conservative



Galan Moss
Conservative

Chair of CIL Ctte

Chair of Co-option
Chair of Comms

Chair of Town Hall
Chair of Appeals

Mayor

Cllrs in Editor's Ward - Yet to Respond to Any Issue in *Free Press* this year

After every issue, the Editor writes to these all Councillors, as a resident of 30+ years in the Wetherby East Ward, asking them to explain, correct or comment on the issues raised. Not one of them has responded yet this year to anything. Is it laziness, arrogance, too busy with other priorities? If it is the latter, then they should not be a Councillor. They are not being accountable to a Council Tax payer raising reasonable and legitimate issues.

Wetherby East Ward Cllrs



Jane Lavocah No Party

Cllr Lavocah told us she has little direct contact from constituents. She is a member of only 2 Cttes so should have plenty of time to look into issues. But she doesn't. No explanation why. She had the second worst meeting attendance record in the latest annual figures at 38%. That is 52% less than the best attender (Cllr Moss). No apology or explanation. The reason may be a new restaurant she has set up.

Chair of Finance
Chair of Planning



Dawn Payne
Conservative

Cllr Payne could clarify many issues, being the Chair, and therefore responsible for 2 important Cttes. But she doesn't. No explanation why.

Chair of Markets



Paul Bradley
Conservative

Cllr Bradley is a member of 5 Cttes so should be able to provide information on many of the issues. As Chair of Markets, he should respond to our criticism of a failing market which is verging on embarrassing now for a 'market town', especially compared to others, like Otley. It is half the size it used to be. But he doesn't respond. No explanation why. He had the worst meeting attendance record in the latest annual figures, less than one third of the meetings at 30%. That is 60% less than the best attender (Cllr Moss). No apology or explanation.



Kazia Knight No Party

Cllr Knight is a member of only 2 Cttes. One of them is Communication, which has featured many times in these pages. She is heavily involved with Sandringham Park, which cost us £250,000+ recently for a new play area.



We are baffled that the Park wins awards, and Cllr Knight too. What is so special about it? No bug hotels, no bird boxes, a couple



of flower boxes, just one bench in the corner, only 3 bits of exercise equipment. It's looked uninspiring for years before the new playground was installed at massive cost. There is nothing much to interest most people. All over Europe you will see vandal-proof table tennis tables in public parks from Italy to Germany, see image. The decrepid sign, see image, has been in place for years. Perhaps Cllr Knight will show us round and explain why it deserves to win awards and is better than most parks. No response to our previous articles on the park or the poor communication issues we highlight. No explanation why.

Proof that this is a Political Town Council:

- 1 The Conservatives brought their MP out to canvass for them last year, see left. We wonder why they are so desperate to get their person onto the Council. Their comment about Labour shows that any claim that the Town Council is not political is absurd.
- 2 Conservative Cllr Norma Harrington is a Leeds City Councillor (a very political role) and a Town Councillor. The same person cannot suddenly switch off being political. We think Councillors should NOT do both roles - it gives one person too much power and influence, especially when Cllr Harrington is Chair of the Staffing Committee.

It is bizarre that this Conservative-dominated Council refuse to state their party allegiance next to their photograph on the Town Council website for everybody to see (instead of going through their Register of Interest which, as we have shown in a recent issue, does not always state which party they are a member of). Many residents will vote purely on the party of the candidate. So why do they want to make this vital piece of information difficult to find? Perhaps they want to distance themselves from their party, as it has declined so much, currently being 10% behind Reform in the latest YouGov poll.



Town Council Mtgs - More Examples of Keeping Info From Us

Markets Ctte Chair Cllr Bradley - July.

Nobody from *Wetherby Business Association* attended. The *Comms & Events Officer* was not named. Unnecessary secrecy again from this Council. Why? Her name is Helena Briden (you may see her name in local papers writing articles as a 'contributor').

Disagreement over £750 fee for Continental Market. The minutes emphasise that there was a long discussion. *Unusual.* Helena Briden wanted it minuted that she 'advised against' a fee of £750. *Again, unusual.*

Market Mistake Two market operators were booked on the same weekend despite 'being informed this would not occur' *Dear Oh Dear!*



Cllr Paul Bradley
Conservative

Welcome to Wetherby Ctte - August. Chair ?????? Not Stated. It is Cllr Buckle.

This meeting apparently lasted nearly 3 hours.

It obviously didn't. Why does Cllr Buckle not check the minutes?

Low standards continue in this committee. Minute-taker is Assistant Clerk. This is not the first time it's happened.

None of the issues we raise has ever been discussed at these meetings. They show little or no interest in simple ideas to make Wetherby a better place and more attractive to visitors.



Cllr Dean Buckle
Conservative

Budget & Governance Ctte August. Chair Cllr Newcombe

New Laptop for Town Clerk - cost £900

Meeting lasted 40 mins.

Assistant Town Clerk did state who the Chair was. *So why not in other meetings? Inconsistent.*

TOWN COUNCIL FULL MEETING August. Chair ???? Not Stated as usual.

Meeting lasted 1 hr 17 mins

4 / 14 Cllrs did not attend.

Town Council Charity Ball at Ridding Park will cost about £7600 and should be self-funding. Tickets to cost £100. *It better cover costs, otherwise we will be subsidising some well-off folk, who can afford that sort of money.*



Cllr Matthew Nicholson
Labour

Our new Councillor Nicholson is joining 3 Committees: Planning, Appeals & Welcome to Wetherby

Let's hope Cllr Nicholson can inject some common sense, creativity and higher standards to these committees, especially Welcome to Wetherby.

VAT for New Boiler NOT taken into account. The exact figure is not stated. *Why not? Must be in the tens of £1000s. As we said in last issue, the Town Hall costs us a fortune.*

Stilt Walker cost £350 for Sandringham Park Open Day

Planning Ctte - August Chair Cllr Payne (in attendee list).

Apologies for absence from Cllr Payne.

She can't be present and absent! Again why wasn't this noticed.

Minute-taker was Assistant Clerk.



Cllr Dawn Payne
Conservative

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Ctte - August. Chair ?????? Not stated.

It is Cllr O'Byrne. Assistant Clerk minuted.

This Committee gives away tens of £1000s of our money and attracted nearly all 15 Councillors recently. Only 5 this time.

Property Ctte - August. Chair ?????? Not Stated. It is Cllr Newcombe. Minute-taker is Assistant Clerk.

A 'Group' held event on WTC Land without Permission The group was not named. *Why not? Was it one that Councillors support so kept it quiet? The public deserve to know. Keeping information like this from us makes us distrust members of this committee.*



Cllr Stuart Newcombe
Conservative

Sand. Park Benches cost £354 each to refurbish.

They 'could not be offered as memorial benches or in Wetherby style, as the committee had originally sought'. No more details provided. *Why? No explanation or individuals admitting to a mistake.*



One solitary seat in the corner of the park

Most of these Chairs have been Councillors for a long time and it is incredible they cannot produce good quality, consistent minutes after so many years in the role. They clearly don't check them properly.

None of these Chairs responded to any of the issues raised in the last edition. No doubt, they will ignore the issues here too. They are not being accountable to a resident of 30+ years, or to you, our readers.

They will continue to ignore questions and low standards until pressure is brought upon them.

Please do your bit - and raise these issues with them

Apathy is our enemy. The fundamental problem is that nobody monitors these Councillors and senior staff and they most certainly do not monitor each other. This means low standards in many areas can flourish, as we show in most issues. A defensive attitude, rarely apologising for poor performance or mistakes means we have an unaccountable Council. Only people power can change things.

Campaign Launched to Stop Birds of Prey Persecution

We are very fortunate to look up in the skies and chances are you will see a red kite. Living in the Hallfield Lane area, the Editor can watch them hover over the estate every day, usually more than one. Now and again they swoop down to a neighbour's front garden to pick up some discarded food. These majestic birds of prey are often seen over Harehills and all around the city of Leeds too. Awesome!

So it is always a great disappointment to visit the Dales and not see any bird of prey, unless you are very lucky. The *Yorkshire Dales Society* aka *Friends of the Dales* think the same. This charity has had enough and want to highlight the fact that persecution still goes on. They want you to join them:

"in the fight against wildlife crime by supporting our Eyes on the Skies campaign. Together, we can speak out against the criminal killing of birds of prey and further raise public awareness of these horrendous crimes to help protect these magnificent species for future generations"

The shocking facts

- Birds of prey are in catastrophic decline especially in the Yorkshire Dales – a UK black spot for this type of wildlife crime.
- Despite more than 70 years of full legal protections for these awe inspiring apex species, birds of prey continue to be persecuted with several now categorised as 'red' and 'amber' for Birds of Conservation Concern.
- There is overwhelming evidence that birds of prey continue to be trapped, shot and poisoned on our uplands.

Membership: £30 for individual, £40 for joint

Find them at www.friendsofthedales.org.uk/

Phone: 01756 749400 Email: victoria.benn@friendsofthedales.org.uk

Friends of the Dales / Yorkshire Dales Society, Canal Wharf, Eshton Road, Gargrave, North Yorkshire, BD23 3PN



Wetherby Foodbank



Shopping in Morrisons?

Look out for their new Foodbank Donation Tokens in the display near the entrance. If you'd like to donate, you can choose a £1, £3 or £5 token, pop it in your basket and scan it along with your shopping at the checkout. Morrisons will pass the donation on to us and also kindly add a further 10%.



Boston Spa
Methodist Church

Lunchtime Concert

Friday 14th November, at 1pm



John Mark Rose

plays Franz Schubert, Lennox Berkeley, Frédéric Chopin
and other well-known composers

TICKETS £6

Light lunches served from 12 noon

ENQUIRIES: 0113 268 2041

Fri 12 Dec at 1pm - Christmas Tree Festival with West Riding Concertina Ensemble

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OR 07990073574 / 01757700042

THE Market Place, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS22 6NE

Fashion Show for Marie Curie at Golf Club

A fashion show was held recently by Azuzu and raised £1000s for the Marie Curie end-of-life charity. It was held at Wetherby Golf Club and sparkled with the theme of 'fun and glitter'. They told us about the event:

“ The lovely ladies from the Golf Club strutted their stuff on the catwalk with style and confidence. The stunning clothes were showcased by Azuzu for the ladies and B by Design for the gentlemen, making it a truly glamorous evening for a wonderful cause. A huge thank you to all the ladies who supported the evening, businesses that donated prizes and people who bought raffle tickets, and to everyone who helped on the night to make it such a success. The event was a brilliant achievement, raising over £2,700 for Marie

Curie. An unforgettable evening of fashion, fun and fundraising. ”

Janet Lewis, Lady Captain at Wetherby Golf Club wishes to send a big “thank you” to everyone who attended.

A Reader Writes:

Drains Need Clearing

reporting blocked gullies online. Sorry LCC, you can pay me to do that!

LCC - these gullies are on Deighton Road, Wetherby opposite the filling station. Nice to see rate payers money has not been spent where it needs to be.

“ Leeds City Council (LCC) has had all summer to have done some basic maintenance ie cleaned the drains out in preparation for autumn rains.

But no, whilst they install parking payment machines as part of a process of their fleecing the public, 'cut back' thinking is reliant solely it would seem on the public



Singing Group's Course a Great Success



Spirit of Harmony, Wetherby's A Capella close harmony singing group for men, has just completed a successful

'Come and Sing' course over 5 weeks. They are confident that they will soon gain permanent new members from the attendees who completed the programme.

Pictured on the front row are the participants proudly holding their certificates!

Dean Whitehouse, Spirit's Events & Publicity Officer, added that it was a hugely

positive programme that demonstrated that with good and regular instruction, guidance, focus, advice and patience, virtually everyone can find the ability to sing with others, significantly contributing to their physical and mental health.

But there's no need to wait for the next sessions - just come along to Wetherby Methodist Church where the group rehearse on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm. You will be very welcome!



Spirit of Harmony
Acapella Chorus



Rhinos Win Treble!

(10 years ago)

Only 4 teams have ever won the Leaders Shield, Challenge Cup and Grand Final - Leeds, Bradford Bulls, Wigan & St Helens. Now we can add to that list - HULL KINGSTON ROVERS.

Huge congratulations to them. They beat last years treble winners Wigan in a

The Glory Days - Treble Dream Team of Sinfied, Burrow, Hall ...

pulsating Grand Final at Old Trafford. They were once thought of playing second fiddle to Hull FC rugby league team but not any more.

The Rhinos chance of reaching the semi-final was lost after one of the best tries ever scored by a team AFTER the final hooter had gone. St Helens had to score and everybody at Headingley thought the game was won. **From the half way line, Saints managed desperately** to keep the ball and pass it from one side of the field to the other, until Leeds had too few men on one side and over the line they went. Shock and dismay for the fans. But they witnessed a historic moment (and Saints lost the semi).



Rover's fans celebrate in Manchester



Oops! man of match chosen before game ends

The Rhinos, including Ryan Hall playing a decade after his treble success, played some exciting stuff this season but were not consistent enough. We thank them (and Wakefield) for some entertaining matches.



A Fan's View of Season so far

"It has been an encouraging start for Leeds United - flashes of attacking flair, real promise in the middle and some defensive grit.

But as we head into the next stretch, one thing stands out as the area for improvement: turning heartbreaking late draws (or worse, defeats) into solid points.

I have just spent the past week on holiday in Egypt - and even 2,500 miles away, the Leeds chatter does not stop! Over breakfast one morning, I got talking to another Leeds fan we had met at the hotel and what struck me was how widespread the optimism is this season.

The general feeling, whether you're in Leeds or lounging by the Red Sea, is that we will stay up. There is real belief, built not on blind hope, but on

performances that have shown progress." Thanks to Molly for her views.

	Team	Pld	GD	Pts	W
1	Arsenal	7	11	16	5
2	Liverpool	7	4	15	5
3	Spurs	7	8	14	4
4	Bournemouth	7	3	14	4
5	Man City	7	9	13	4
6	Crystal Palace	7	4	12	3
7	Chelsea	7	4	11	3
8	Everton	7	2	11	3
9	Sunderland	7	1	11	3
10	Man Utd	7	-2	10	3
11	Newcastle	7	1	9	2
12	Brighton	7	0	9	2
13	Aston Villa	7	-1	9	2
14	Fulham	7	-3	8	2
15	Leeds	7	-4	8	2
16	Brentford	7	-3	7	2

Leeds 15th out of 20

Results & Fixtures

Fulham 1 Utd 0

Wolves 1 Utd 3

Utd 2 Bournemouth 2

Utd 1 Spurs 2

Burnley v Utd on Sat 18 Oct at 3pm

Utd v West Ham on 24 Oct at 8pm

Brighton v Utd on Sat 1 Nov at 3pm



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News, Funny Stuff & Improving Accountability

Your Not-for-Profit Community Newsletter

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Please Donate Online to Cover Printing Costs

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

If we get important facts wrong, we will apologise publicly and correct the error.

We don't do interviews, as we are not journalists. Professional journalists are very rare indeed now. Most are 'cut & paste from press releases' merchants. We have high standards and not afraid to say what we see.

We encourage everyone to write to us with their views, whatever they are. Our countrymen and women have died for our Freedom of Expression so do not 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

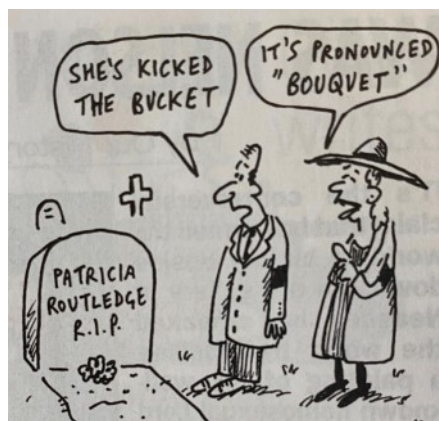
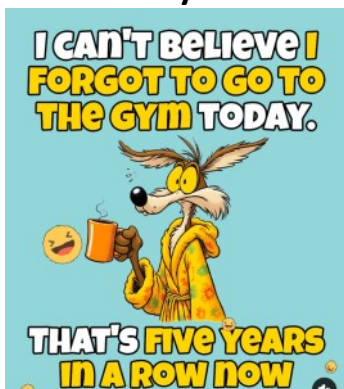
Unjustifiable threats of legal action can be seen as harassment.

The Editor has had 7 'Meet the Editor' events so far. None of our harshest online critics have turned up yet to have a mature face-to-face discussion.



We Listen to Both Sides

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